BAREFOOT GEN

NEVER GIVE UP



VOLUME TEN

Keiji
Nakazawa

Memoir/History



Cartoonist Keiji Nakazawa was seven years old and living in Hiroshima in the early days of August 1945 when the city was destroyed by an atomic bomb dropped by the United States. Starting a few months before that event, his ten-volume saga *Barefoot Gen* shows life in Japan after years of war and privations, as seen through the eyes of seven-year-old Gen Nakaoka.

As Volume Ten begins, the year is 1953. Now an apprentice sign painter, Gen has become a skilled artist, while his friends run a thriving dressmaking business. Gen falls in love for the first time, but fails to notice that a good friend has been caught in the clutches of drug addiction. Heartbreak and loss await Gen as the atomic bomb continues to wreak havoc on the lives of people in Hiroshima years after the fact. Yet these tragedies also inspire Gen to make the big move to Tokyo to pursue his career as an artist.

"...some of the best comics ever done. Nakazawa, I'm sure, will be considered one of the great comic artists of this century, because he tells the truth in a plain, straightforward way, filled with real human feelings."
-R. Crumb, cartoonist

"Gen effectively bears witness to one of the central horrors of our time. This vivid and harrowing story will burn a radioactive crater in your memory that will never let you forget it. Gen is one of those very few comix that actually pulls off the essential magic trick... those little marks on paper come to fully realized life."
-Art Spiegelman, cartoonist,
Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for *Maus*

"Nakazawa's graphic presentation of what it was like to survive the atomic bombing of Hiroshima should be required reading for all citizens, beginning with the President. Perhaps then we might gain the maturity to stop such madness."
-Hunter & Amory Lovins
Friends of the Earth

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*Part 10 of a ten-part series

BAREFOOT GEN
NEVER GIVE UP
Nakazawa
LAST GASP

BAREFOOT GEN

NEVER GIVE UP



VOLUME TEN

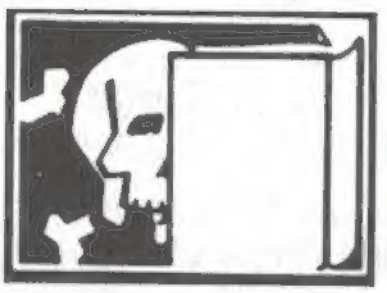
Keiji Nakazawa

BAREFOOT GEN

VOLUME TEN:
NEVER GIVE UP

KEIJI NAKAZAWA

Translated by Project Gen



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Translation by Project Gen

Volume 10 Translators: Michael Gordon, Nobutoshi Kohara, Wayne P. Lammers, Kiyoko Nishita

Project Gen Volunteers: Namie Asazuma, Kazuko Futakuchi, Kyoko Honda, Yukari Kimura, Nante Kotta, George Stenson, Michiko Tanaka, Kazuko Yamada

Edited by Alan Gleason and Colin Turner

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Gen's Message: A Plea for Nuclear Abolition

Since the dawn of life on Earth, every living creature has engaged in a fierce struggle for survival in the effort to perpetuate its species. Some have gone extinct, while others have evolved and flourished.

Among the latter are humans. Evolving from apes, we began to walk erect, learned how to use fire, acquired language, and eventually created weapons of stone and iron with which to hunt game.

In time we used these weapons not only to kill prey, but to attack other humans to satisfy our desire for greater wealth and power. From arrows and spears we moved on to rifles and cannons — always in the direction of facilitating the murder of more people. Finally, we developed the most efficient weapon of all, the bomb. To create ever more powerful bombs, we poured vast amounts of wealth and resources into research, assigning whole armies of scientists to the task. The result was our invention of the most lethal — and the most brutal — means of killing people yet produced: the nuclear missile.

Relegating Hiroshima and Nagasaki to an obscure corner of history, the nuclear states of the world continue to develop these terrible weapons today, in the process sacrificing their own citizens and those of the territories they control. At nuclear test sites in Semipalatinsk, in

the Sahara, in Polynesia, the damage to inhabitants of the surrounding region and their environment has been incalculable.

Meanwhile, the Chernobyl disaster of 1986 demonstrated the dangers of "peaceful" uses of nuclear energy. For a time after that devastating accident, the proliferation of nuclear power plants in Europe and elsewhere was put on hold. But now, in the name of providing "green energy" to mitigate global warming, business is picking up again for the nuclear industry. At Chernobyl, the explosion of a single reactor unleashed a catastrophe of global proportions; even today, millions of people suffer from illness and the threat of premature death because of it.

Japan alone has over fifty nuclear reactors in operation. A missile striking one of those reactors could in effect function as a nuclear weapon, even without a nuclear warhead. Herein lies the true, albeit hidden, nature of "peaceful" nuclear power. Whether triggered by an earthquake, accident, or attack, it contains the seeds of horrific destruction.

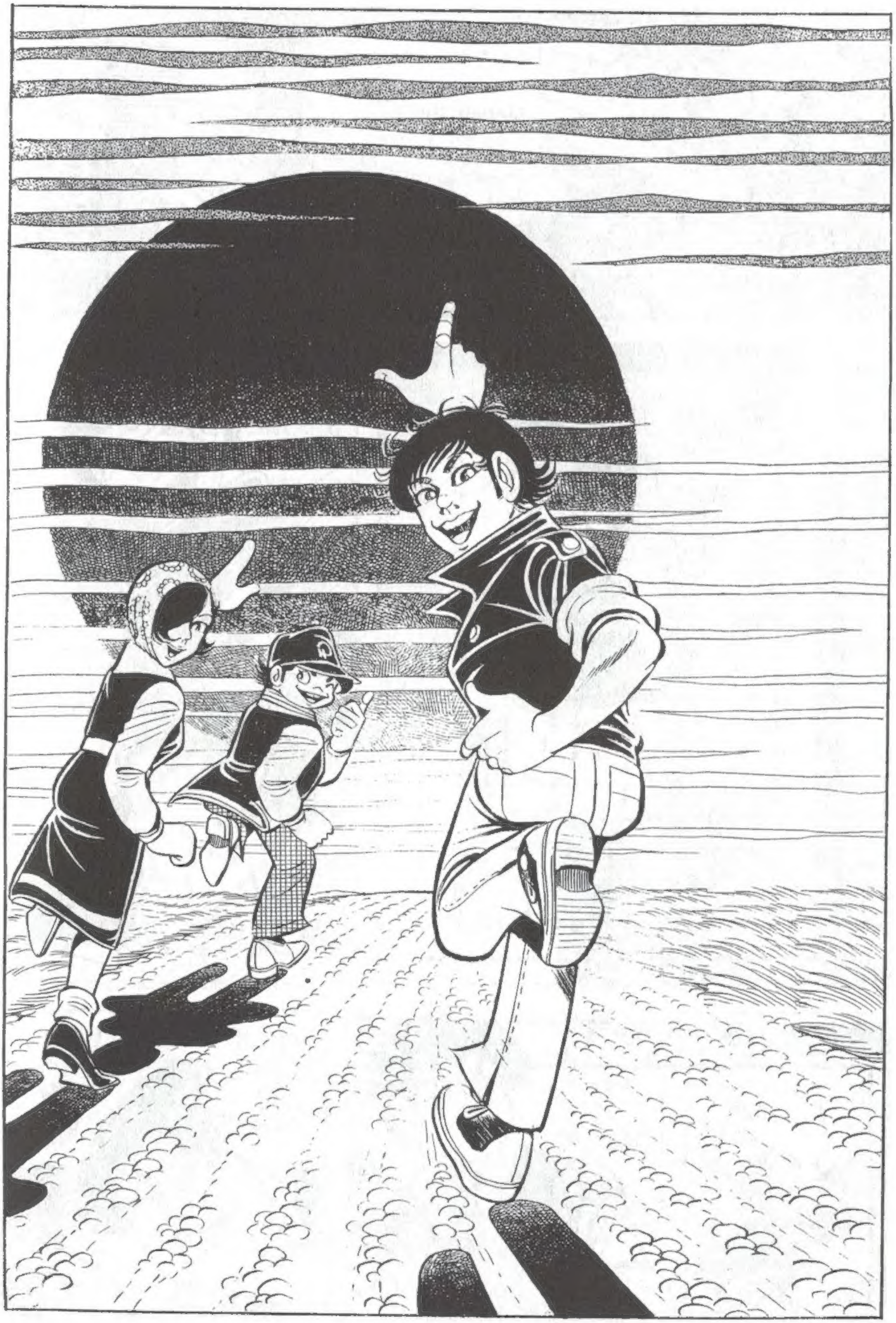
Those who ignore the past are condemned to repeat it. From the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we must take to heart the lesson that nuclear weapons and nuclear power cannot coexist with life on Earth. If we truly believe that we are the stewards of all creation, then we must abandon nuclear weapons and power forever.

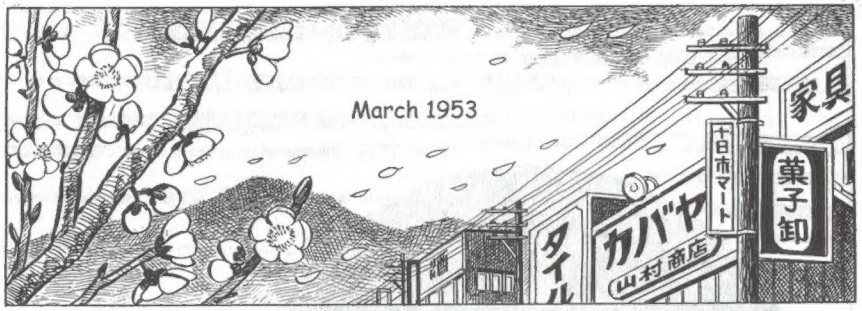
As Gen travels the world, sharing his story with children everywhere, we entrust in him a message of peace and nuclear abolition, and wish him a safe and fruitful journey.

The Translators and Editors at Project Gen

BAREFOOT GEN

NEVER GIVE UP



















Sign: Ohta Academy



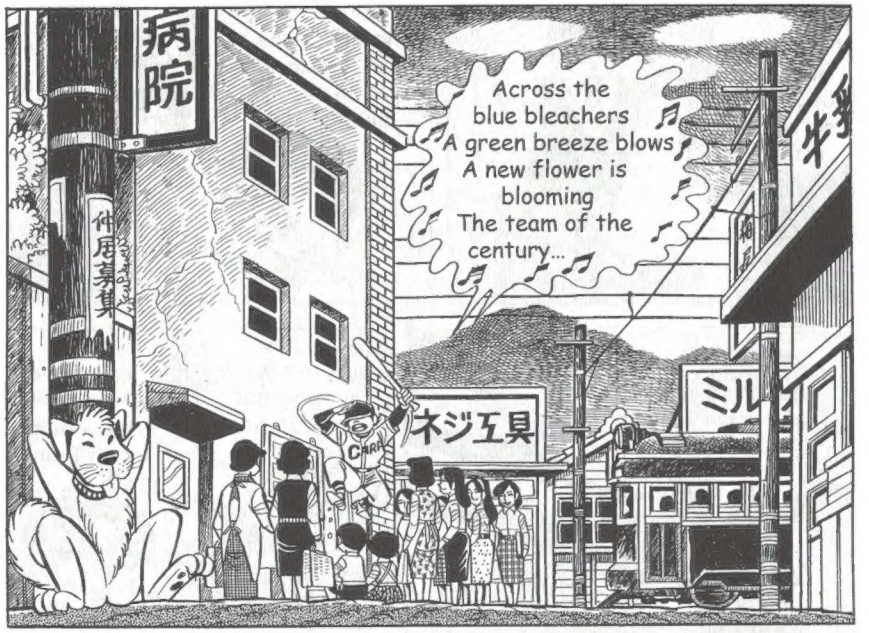


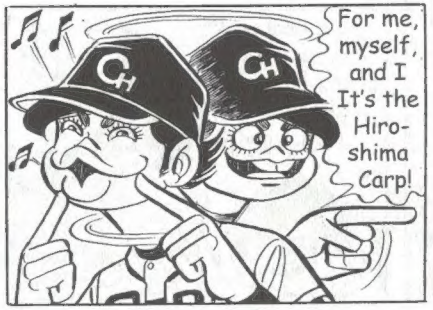





I don't go to school much. I've been learning how to paint, working at a sign-maker's shop.
When I'm painting, I get so wrapped up in it, I lose track of time.
Well, they say that loving what you do makes for good work.
But they said I should come get my diploma,
so I figured I'd put in an appear-ance.
There's a lot more to education than what you learn in school.
Even the kids who brag about getting into a top university have only reached the starting line for a long marathon.
START
School's just a warm-up for the real world.
A lot of idiots think they've won simply by getting into a top school...
but the race doesn't start until you get out into the world -- and what counts is staying true to yourself as you run that marathon.
START
So don't you worry about your school record, Gen.
Right!

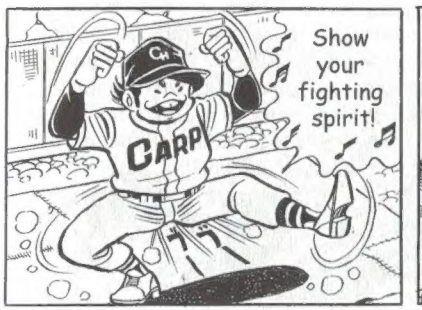

So Gen Nakaoka is about to become a real working man, eh!
Congratulations, Gen. I wish you all the best.
Thanks, Mr. Ohta!
This calls for a graduation present. What would you like? Name it.
That's okay. Don't worry about me.
You don't exactly look like you're living on easy street, so forget it.
Are you making fun of me? You don't know how rich I am!
Hee hee! Ten students aren't gonna make you rich.
Ha ha ha! You saw right through me.
But thanks anyway, Mr. Ohta. It's the thought that counts.
You're wel-come.
Well, I guess I'd better be going.
Hurrah for Gen Nakaoka! Banzai!

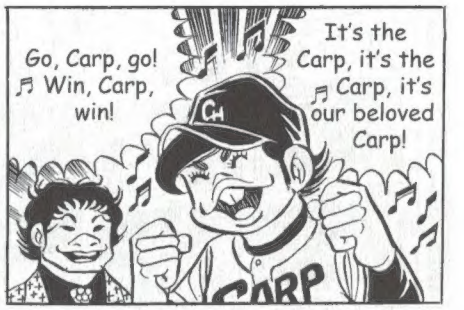

病院
Across the blue bleachers
A green breeze blows
A new flower is blooming
The team of the century...
ネジ工具

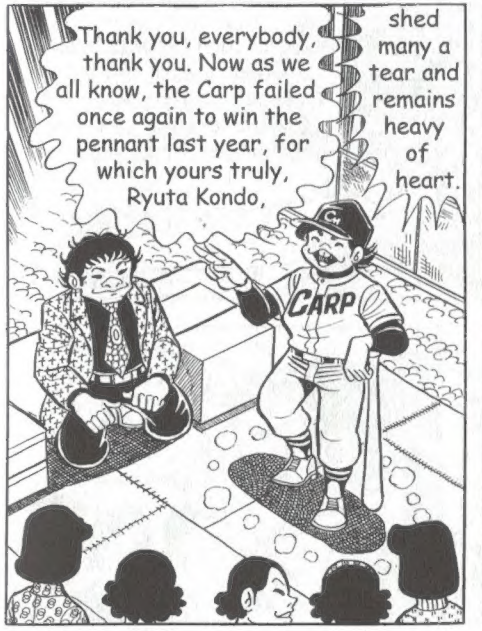

For me, myself, and I
It's the Hiroshima Carp!


Giggle...
Ha ha ha...
Tee hee...

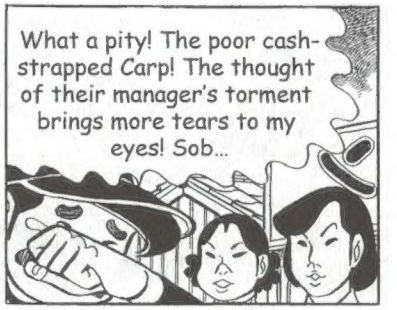

Throw-ing...
Run-ning...
Field-ing...
Hit-ting...


Show your fighting spirit!

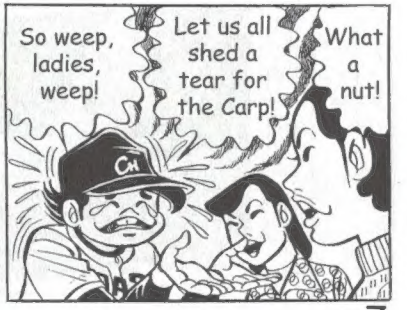

Go, Carp, go!
♬ Win, Carp, win!
It's the Carp, it's the ♬ Carp, it's our beloved Carp!


Thank you, everybody, thank you. Now as we all know, the Carp failed once again to win the pennant last year, for which yours truly, Ryuta Kondo,
shed many a tear and remains heavy of heart.


But this year I have resolved to do everything in my power
to ensure that they win the pennant.


What a pity! The poor cash-strapped Carp! The thought of their manager's torment brings more tears to my eyes! Sob...


三等車
The players have to sleep in the aisles of third-class train cars when they travel to away games. It breaks my heart to think of it!


So weep, ladies, weep!
Let us all shed a tear for the Carp!
What a nut!

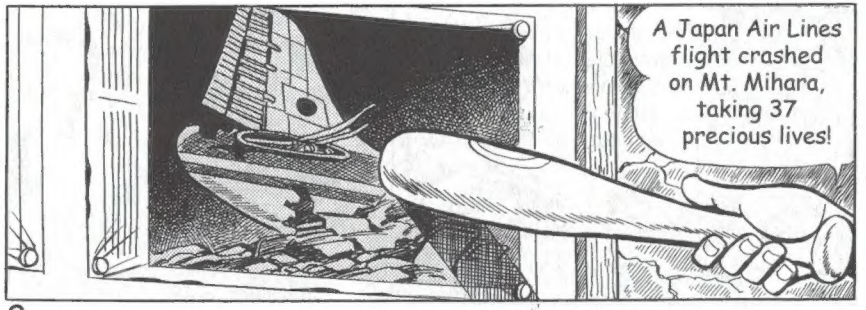


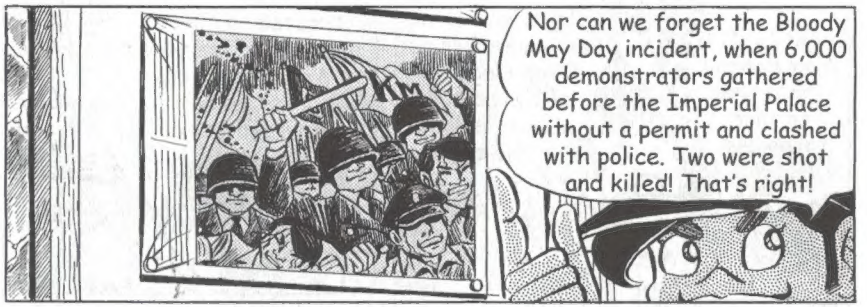
Sign: Daily Morning News Board

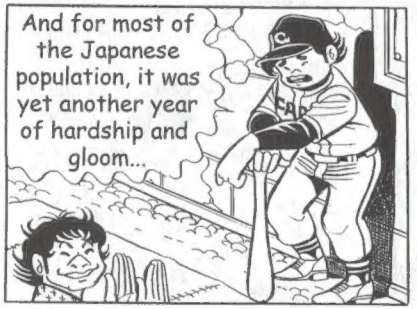




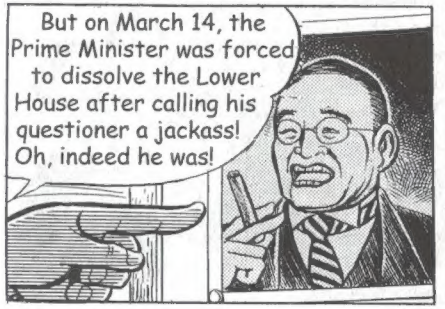


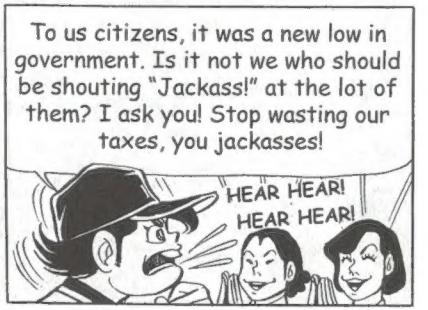




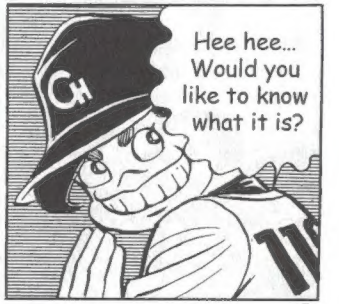










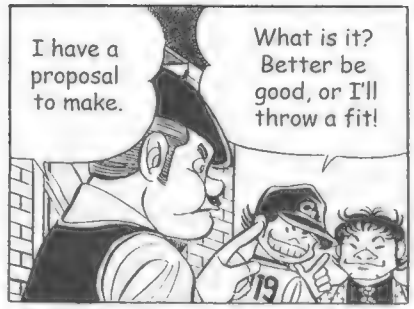



Tat ta-da daaa! Behold! The secret to your happiness!
Let yourself shine! Let yourself shine! O morning star of the century! Sweet melody of the evening!
CARP
Created by Cacco, designer to the world! Wear this lovely dress, and let yourself shine!
Just try it on, it'll make you smile!
Fortune comes to the happy home!
Step right up, ladies. We only have ten, so it's first come, first served!
We're offering them today at the low, low introductory price of just ¥1,000!
My, it's very stylish.
So chic!
I love it!
Naturally! It's the magic touch of the world-famous Cacco!
You won't find anything like it in the department stores.


I'll take one!
Me, too!
Me, too!
Me, too!
Ha ha ha. Easy now, easy! One at a time, please. Haste makes waste.
I GOT ONE!
There you go. Thank you.
There you are. Thank you, thank you!
I'M SO HAPPY!
Man, we sold out in no time at all -- thanks to Katsuko's great sense of style!
You said it!
Sorry, mister, we're all sold out. But we'll be back, so you can get one then.

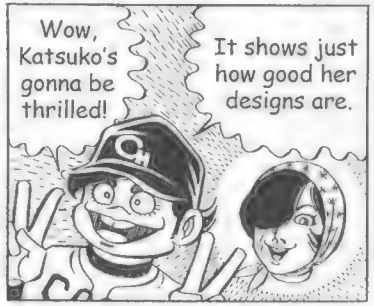

Now, go on! Move along!
You little punk! You can't get rid of me that easy!
URK!
119
BRAAAAP!
What're you so upset about, mister?
How can I not be upset, dammit?!
Ha ha ha! Right, right, you're mad 'cuz you didn't get a dress.
It's a shame, I know. Believe me, I feel your pain.
But there's no need to be angry! Smile! Smile!
We want the Carp to win this year! Unhappy faces won't do!
CARP
C'mon, smile! Laugh! It'll bring good luck.
HEE HEE HEE
TICKLE TICKLE
Cut it out, you idiot!!
WHUH?!
119
Did you think about where you were when you set up shop?
Where we were...?


暮の新作入荷
トレビアン洋装店
牛乳
賀茂泉
Oops.
Are you punks trying to ruin me?!
119
Signs: Très Bien Western Fashions; New Spring Designs Just In
Ha ha ha! I don't believe it. I never noticed we'd set up next to a dress shop!
Me neither.
CARP
Thanks to you guys, nobody's buying anything from me!
Ha ha ha! Sorry about that.
But please don't be angry. Smile! Smile!
Hmph... I guess it's water under the bridge at this point.
Right, right! That's the spirit, governor!
You're the greatest, yessiree! All's well that ends well!
Shaddup already!
CARP



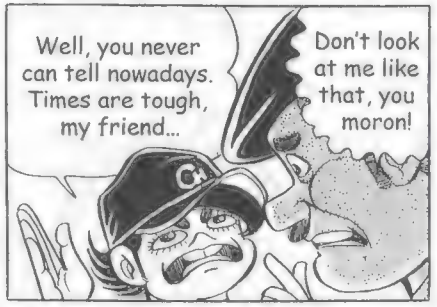














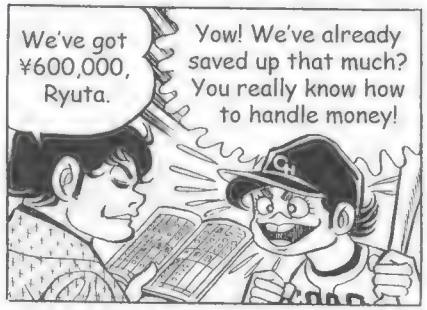


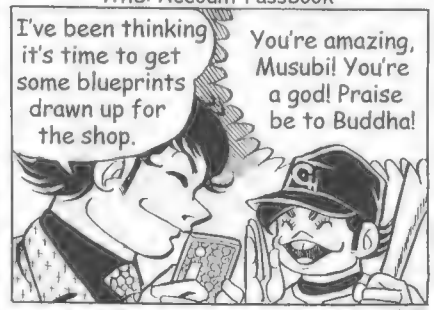




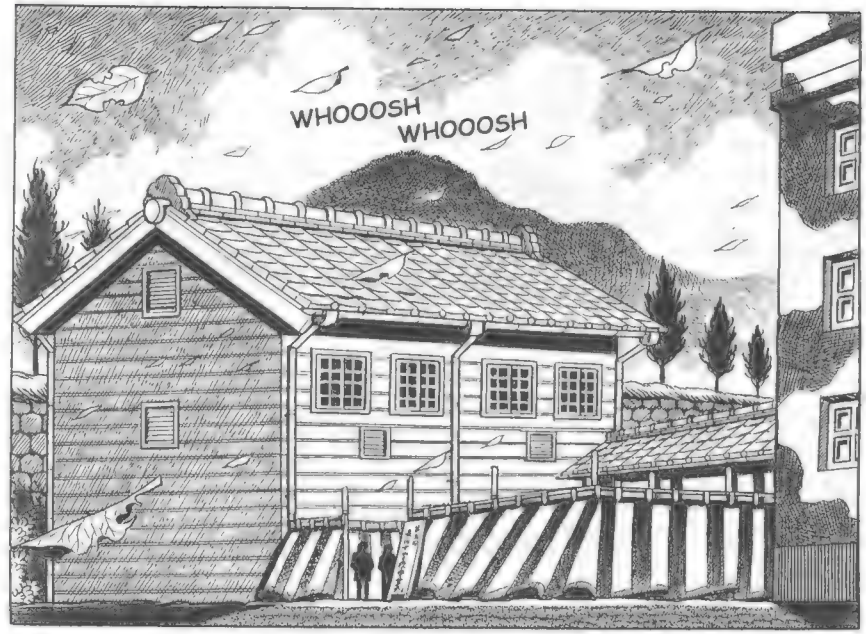


Title: Account Passbook











Sign: 5th Namikawa Middle School Commencement

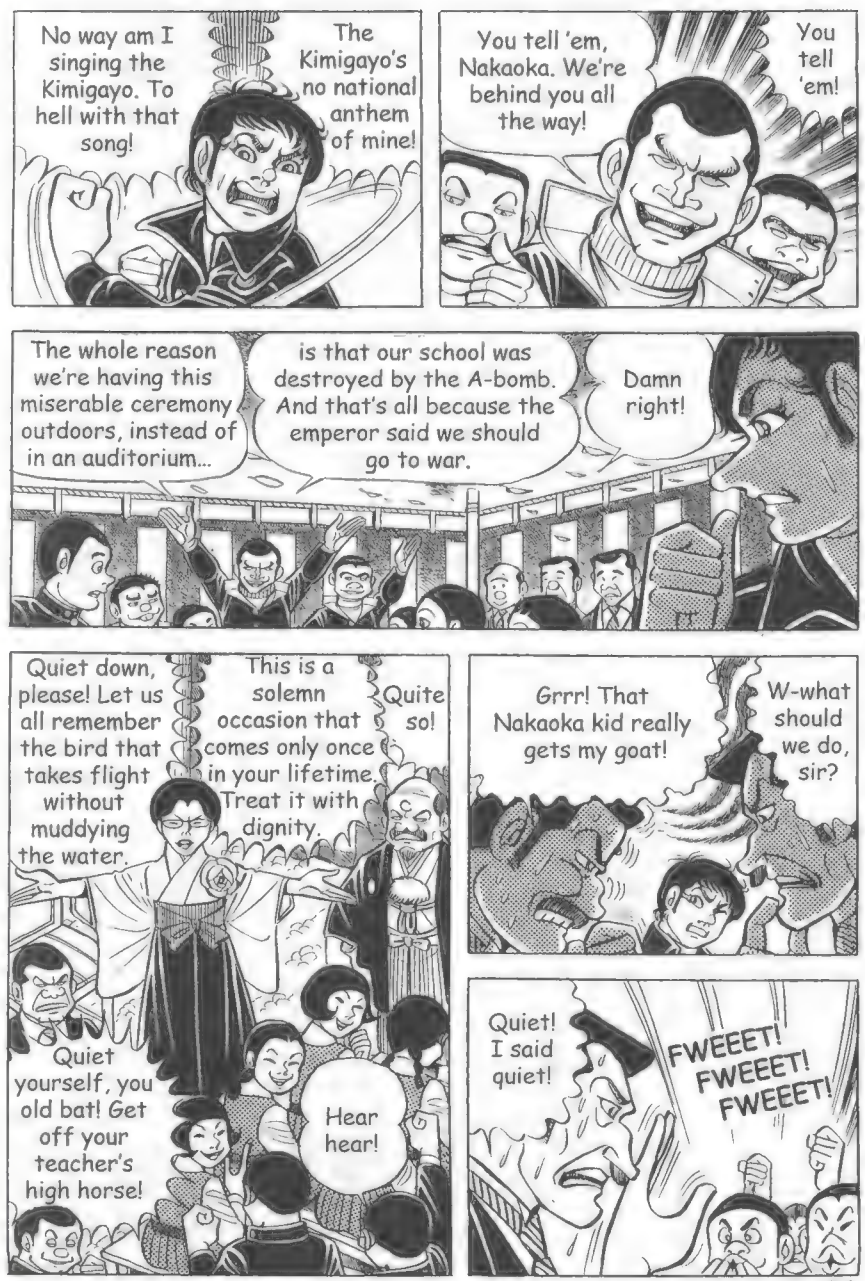


Signs: Family Members; Special Guests


Q-quiet in the back!
Don't make me laugh, you friggin' airhead.
WHISTLE
HEE HEE
SMIRK
Who's that guy, Crapa-mori?
Toru Yokomichi of Class B. He became the 9th grade class bully while you were out playing hooky.
HA HA HA
I don't remember any Toru Yokomichi.
You wouldn't. He came here from the reformatory.
We will now sing our national anthem, the Kimigayo.
The Kimi-ga-yo?!
All rise for the an-them!
May the Emperor's glorious reign...
Stop! Stop!
Urk!


Why are we singing this song? I'm not singing it! It glorifies the emperor. I hate the emperor!
Why should I have to sing a song that praises somebody I hate?
The emperor's a war criminal!
Watch your tongue, young man! You're insulting His Majesty!
Shut up! It's all because the emperor launched us into a reckless war that Japan's cities were turned into scorched piles of rubble...
and Hiroshima and Nagasaki were hit by atomic bombs. More than three million Japanese died in that war. My family was among them.
And on top of that, the Japanese army killed over 30 million people in China, Korea, and other parts of Asia -- all in the name of the emperor.

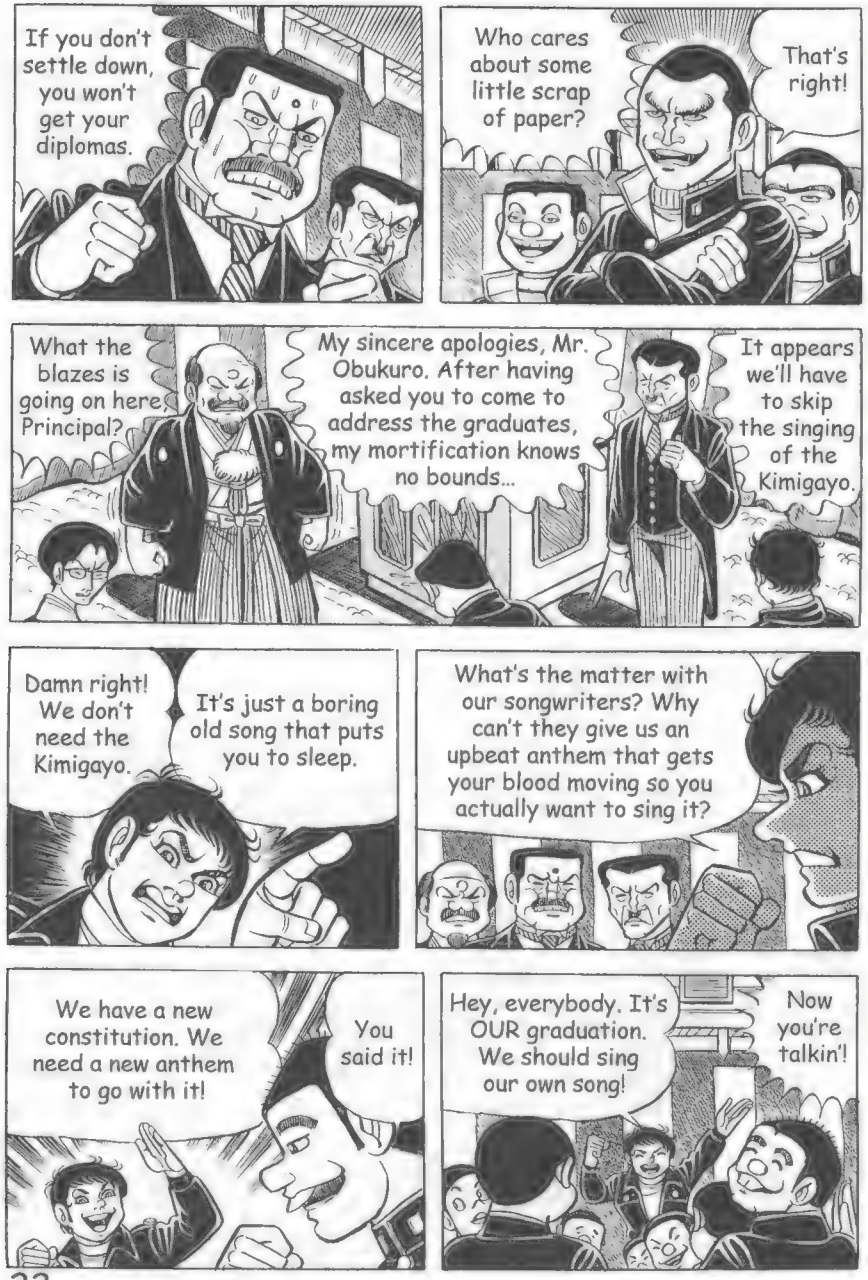

They chopped off people's heads like it was a game.
They used them for bayonet practice.
They cut open pregnant mothers' bellies and tore out their babies.
They rammed saké bottles into women, crushing their pelvises and killing them.
When I heard about the army's "Three Alls" policy -- kill all, loot all, burn all -- I actually threw up. Our fellow Asians were subjected to unspeakable atrocities.
I'll never forgive the emperor for allowing tens of millions of people to be killed like that in his name.
I'll never forgive the emperor who smugly sits in his palace to this day, still refusing to take responsibility for the war!

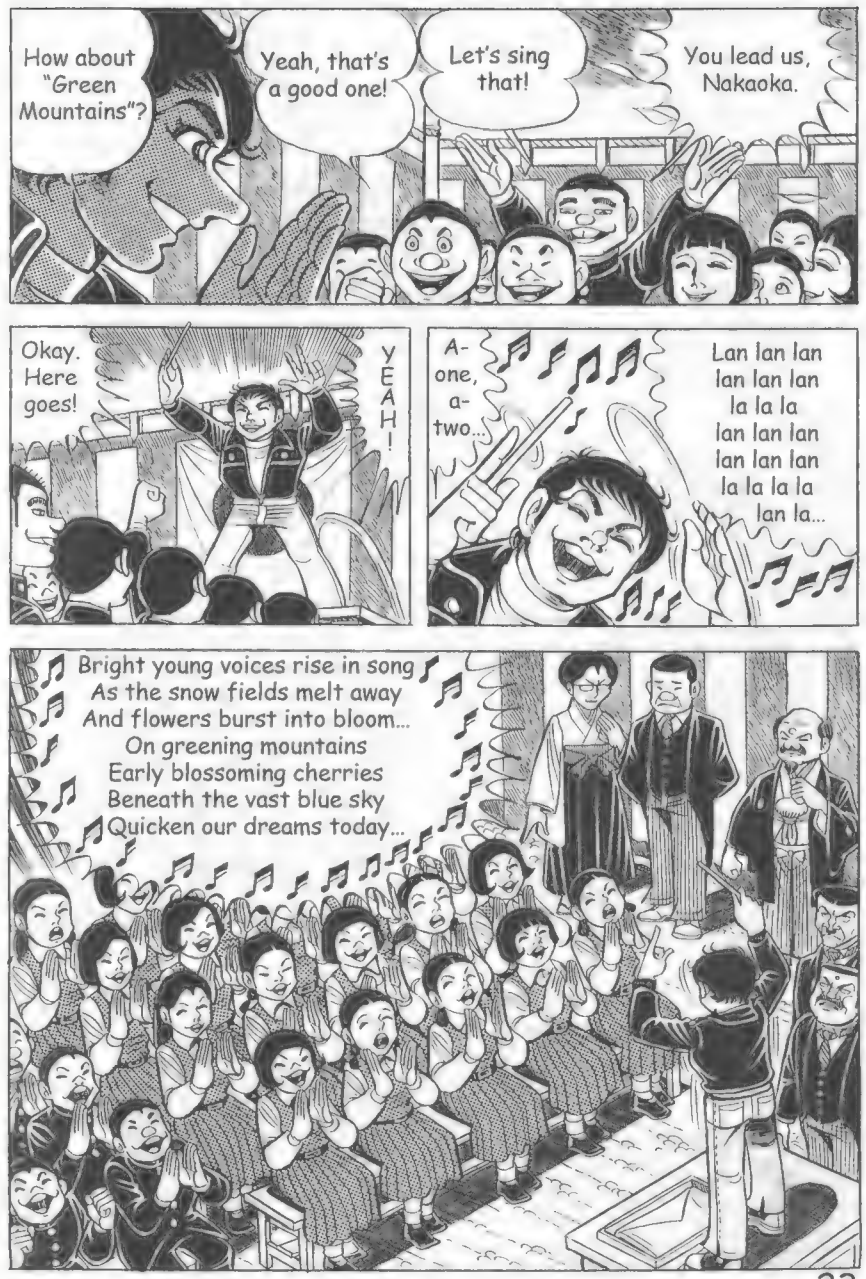

No way am I singing the Kimigayo. To hell with that song!
The Kimigayo's no national anthem of mine!
You tell 'em, Nakaoka. We're behind you all the way!
You tell 'em!
The whole reason we're having this miserable ceremony outdoors, instead of in an auditorium...
is that our school was destroyed by the A-bomb. And that's all because the emperor said we should go to war.
Damn right!
Quiet down, please! Let us all remember the bird that takes flight without muddying the water.
This is a solemn occasion that comes only once in your lifetime. Treat it with dignity.
Quite so!
Quiet yourself, you old bat! Get off your teacher's high horse!
Hear hear!
Grrr! That Nakaoka kid really gets my goat!
W-what should we do, sir?
Quiet! I said quiet!
FWEEET! FWEEET! FWEEET!





Sign: Principal's Office

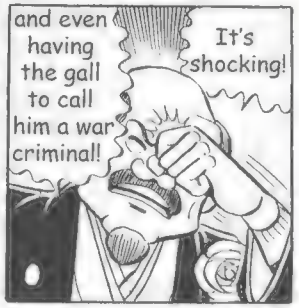

If you don't settle down, you won't get your diplomas.
Who cares about some little scrap of paper?
That's right!
What the blazes is going on here, Principal?
My sincere apologies, Mr. Obukuro. After having asked you to come to address the graduates, my mortification knows no bounds...
It appears we'll have to skip the singing of the Kimigayo.
Damn right! We don't need the Kimigayo.
It's just a boring old song that puts you to sleep.
What's the matter with our songwriters? Why can't they give us an upbeat anthem that gets your blood moving so you actually want to sing it?
We have a new constitution. We need a new anthem to go with it!
You said it!
Hey, everybody. It's OUR graduation. We should sing our own song!
Now you're talkin'!

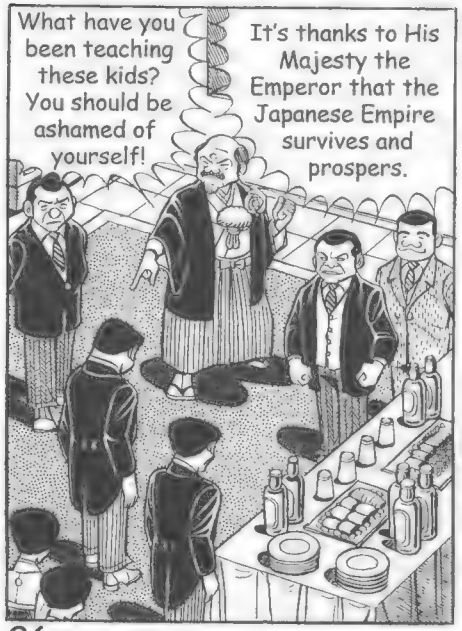

How about "Green Mountains"?
Yeah, that's a good one!
Let's sing that!
You lead us, Nakaoka.
Okay. Here goes!
YEAH!
A-one, a-two...
Lan lan lan lan lan lan la la la lan lan lan lan lan lan la la la la lan la...
Bright young voices rise in song
As the snow fields melt away
And flowers burst into bloom...
On greening mountains
Early blossoming cherries
Beneath the vast blue sky
Quicken our dreams today...


Principal, that was by far the worst graduation ceremony I've ever seen!
That's right. It was a disgrace!
Outrageous! You basically just let the students do as they pleased.

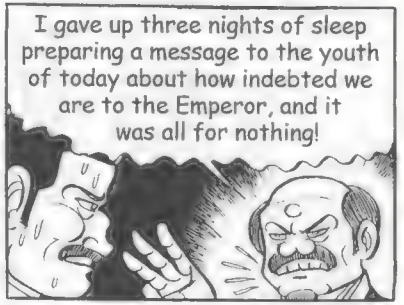

And that kid Nakaoka is out of control!


Speaking ill of His Majesty...


and even having the gall to call him a war criminal!
It's shocking!

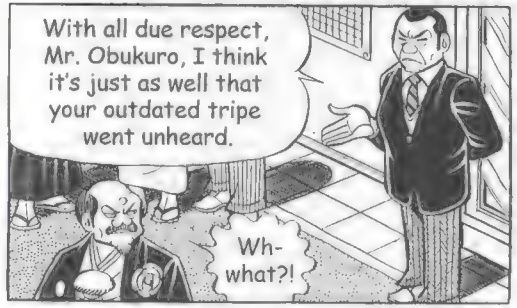

What have you been teaching these kids? You should be ashamed of yourself!
It's thanks to His Majesty the Emperor that the Japanese Empire survives and prospers.

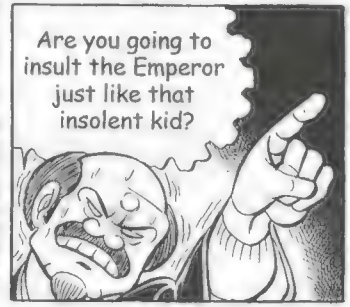

Even the great Japanese Empire will fall to ruin if our kids start heaping scorn on the Emperor like that.
It's beyond belief!

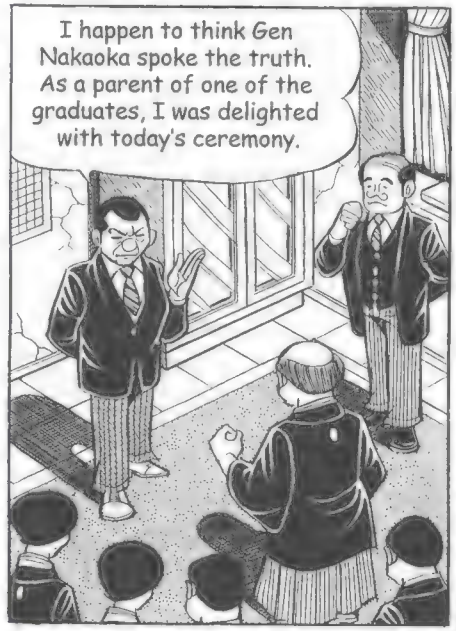

I gave up three nights of sleep preparing a message to the youth of today about how indebted we are to the Emperor, and it was all for nothing!

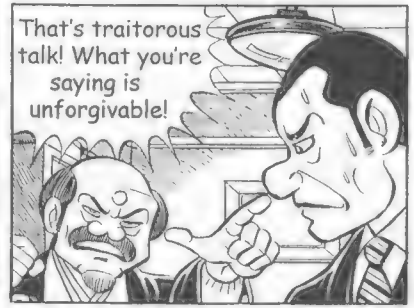

Have you no idea how hard I've been working, and how concerned I am for the future of Japan?
Y-you have my deepest apologies, sir...


Hah! If apologies cured everything we wouldn't need doctors.
.....

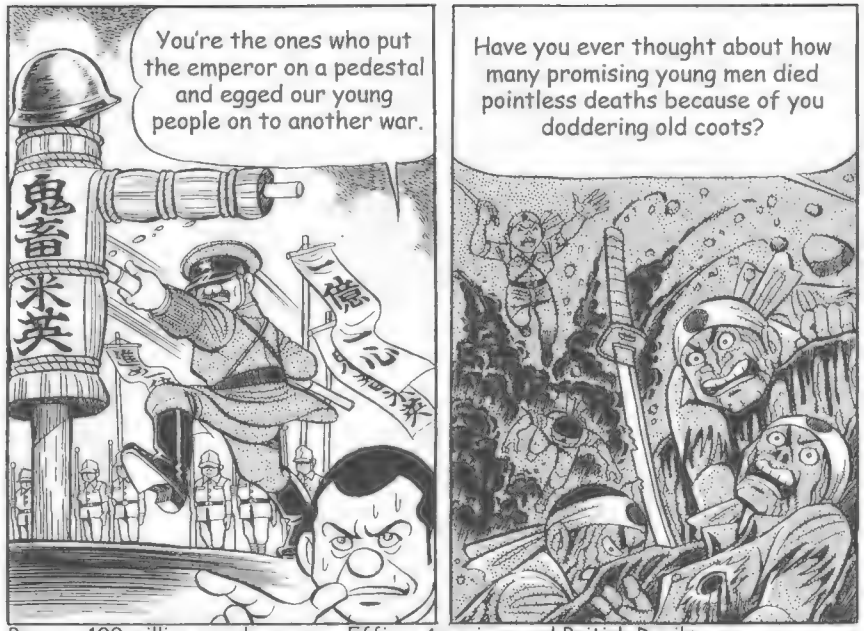

With all due respect, Mr. Obukuro, I think it's just as well that your outdated tripe went unheard.
Wh-what?!


Are you going to insult the Emperor just like that insolent kid?


I happen to think Gen Nakaoka spoke the truth. As a parent of one of the graduates, I was delighted with today's ceremony.

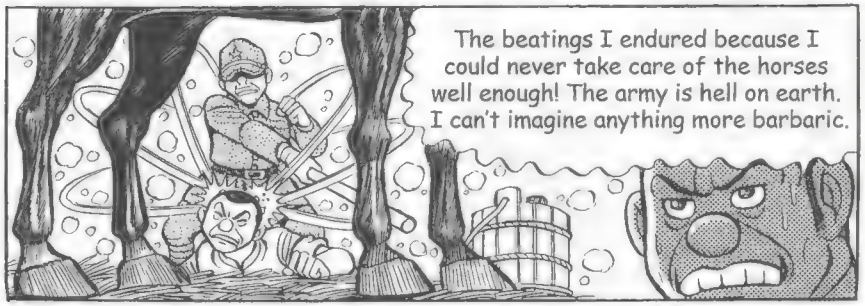

That's traitorous talk! What you're saying is unforgivable!

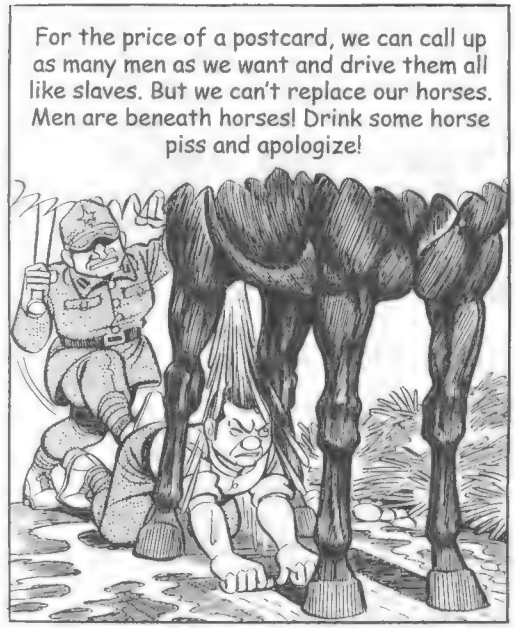

I've heard enough of your claptrap! You're the ones I find unforgivable --
you old geezers who think you're such big heroes because you fought way back in the war with Russia!



Banner: 100 million people as one Effigy: American and British Devils



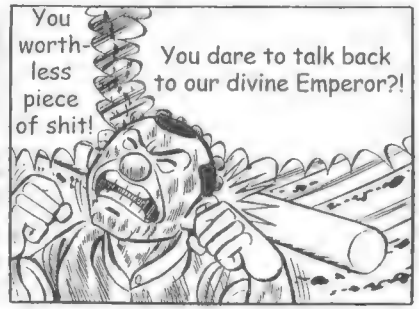






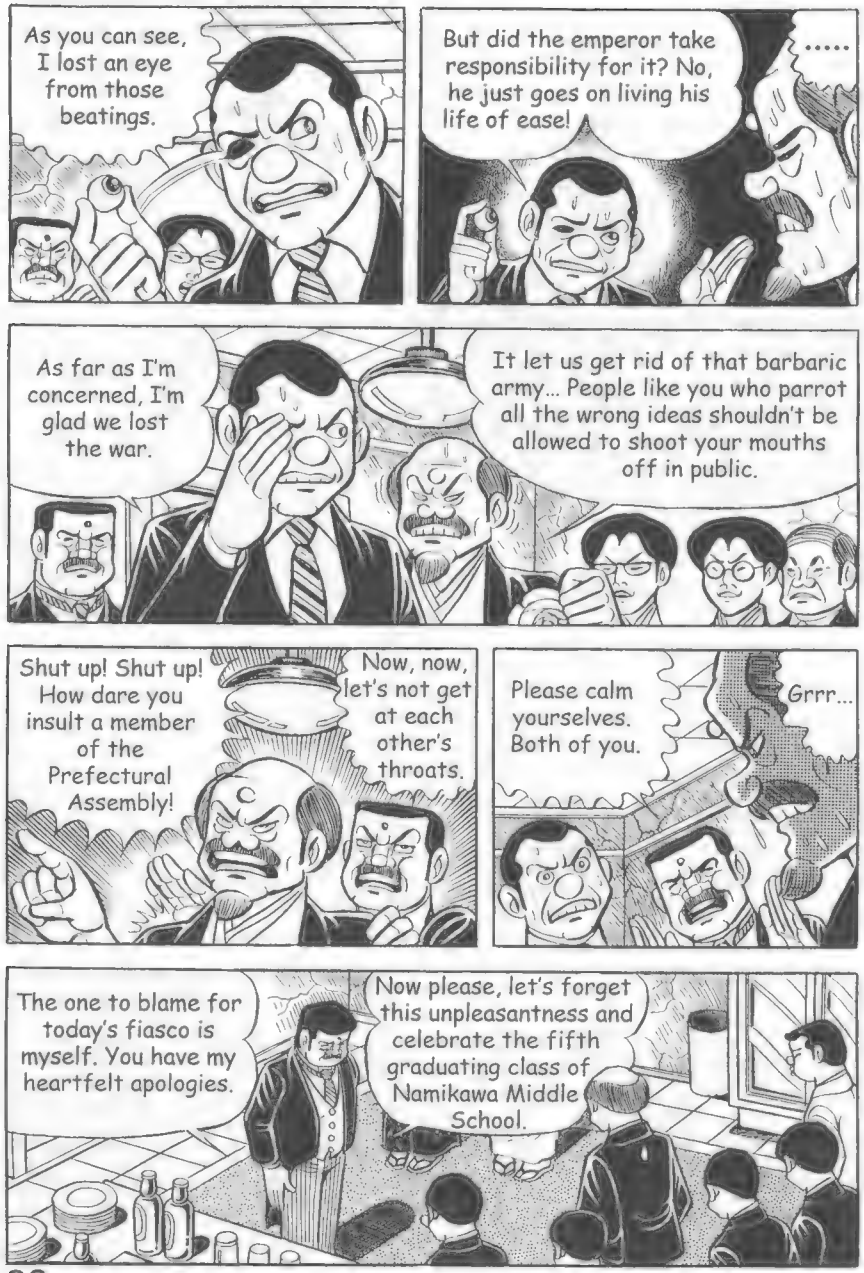


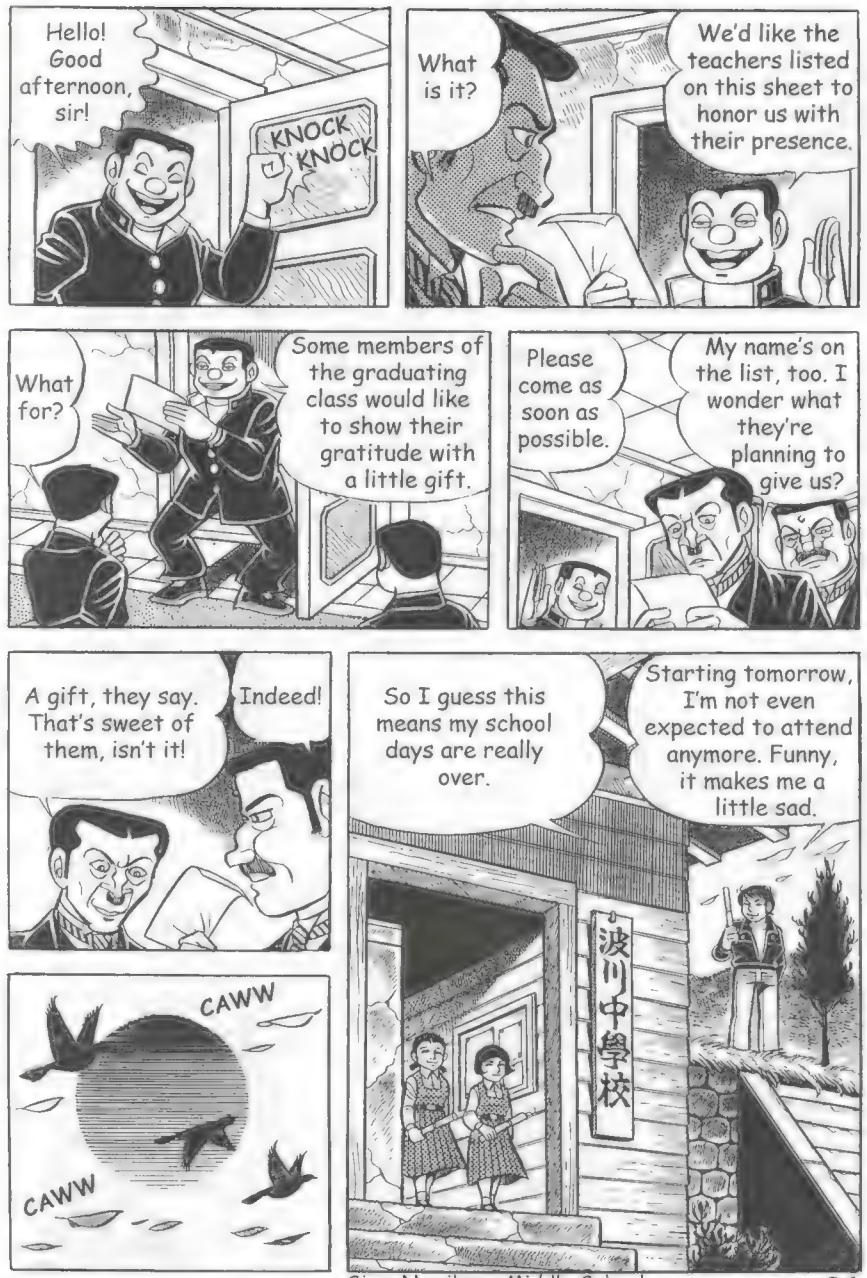




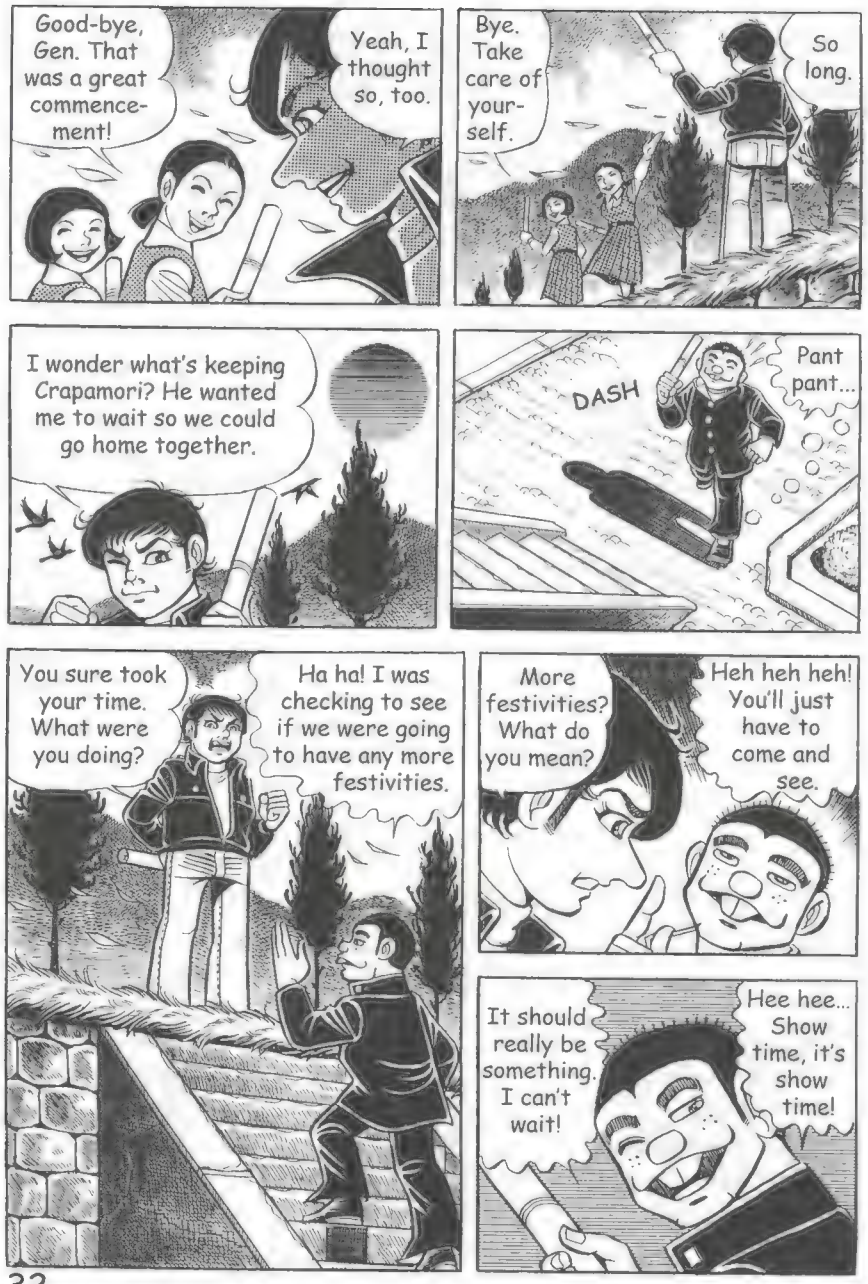




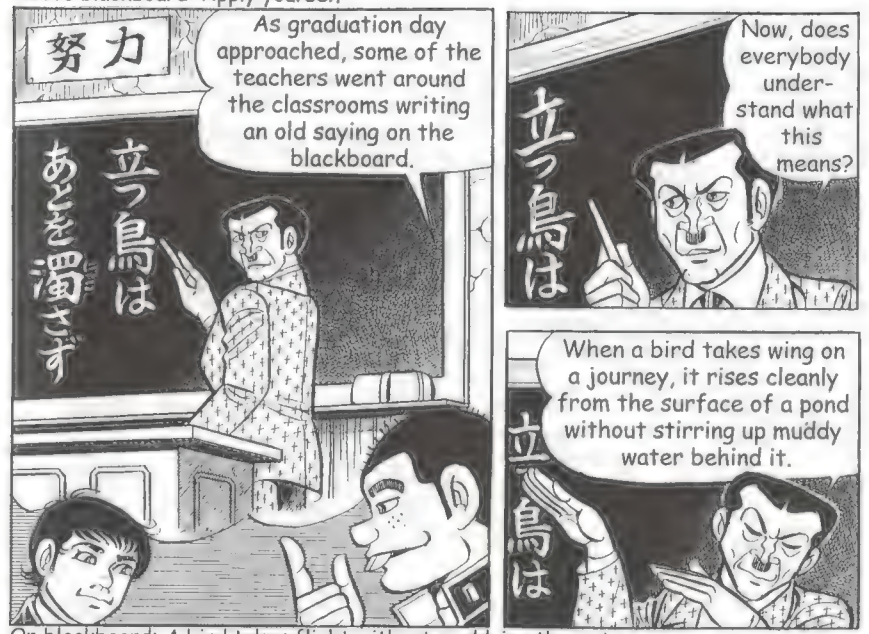




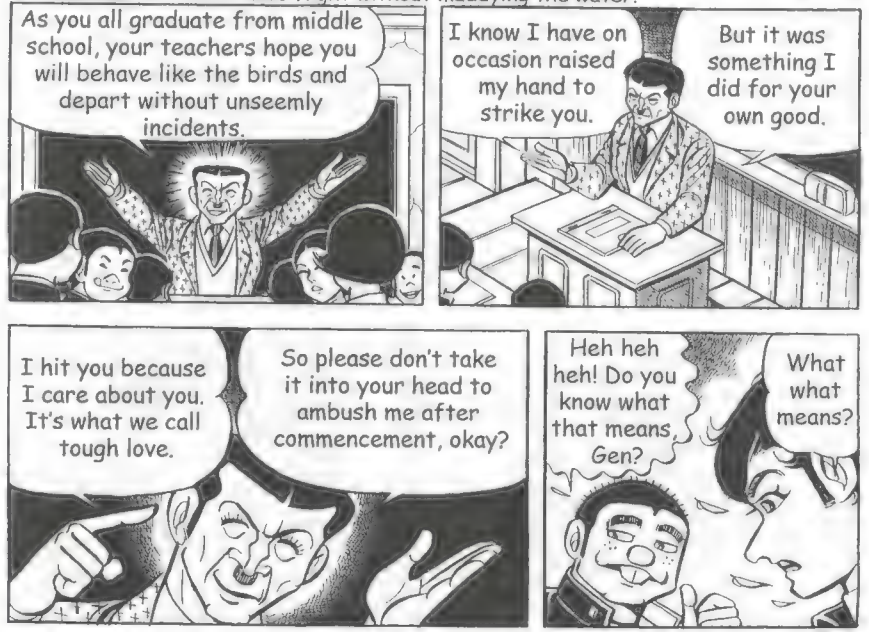
Sign: Namikawa Middle School



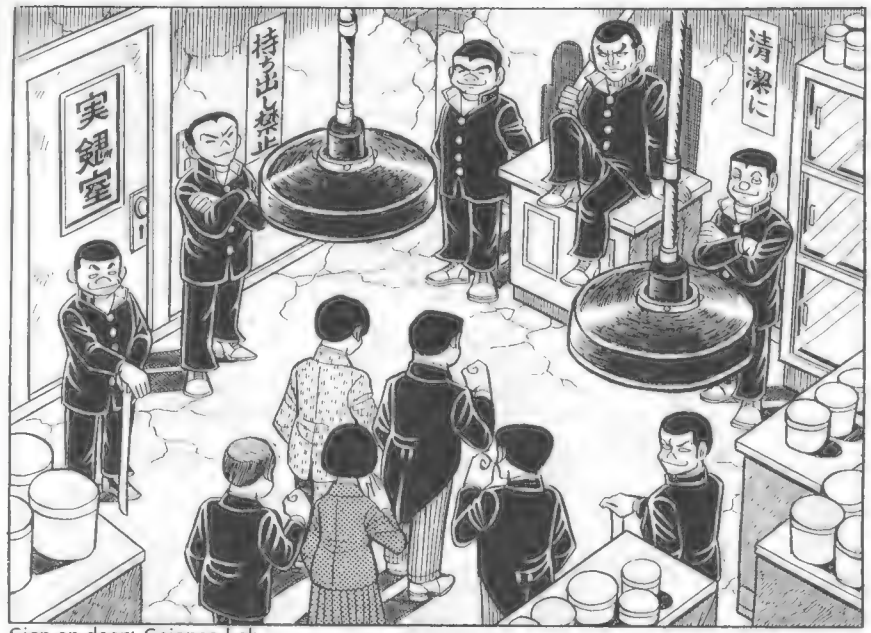
Above blackboard: Apply yourself



On blackboard: A bird takes flight without muddying the water.







Sign on door: Science Lab






It was so good of you all to come. As a representative of the graduates...
I'd like to offer you the full measure of our appreciation.
W-what do you intend to d-do...?
Urk!
CRACK!
Huh! Stop your whimpering!
You shithead! You're the one who put me in the reformatory!
WHACK!
This oughta teach you!
Stop! Stop it! How can you treat your teacher like this?
Groan...


Ungh!
WHACK!
Shaddap!
You can stop your yelling and screaming!
I'm gonna work you over real good. You'll all get your turn.
Gasp!
Ack!
No violence! You mustn't use violence!
Gulp...
You're a fine one to talk, after all the times you hit us!
Chatter chatter...
Urggh...
POW!
Don't make me laugh!
Eeek!!



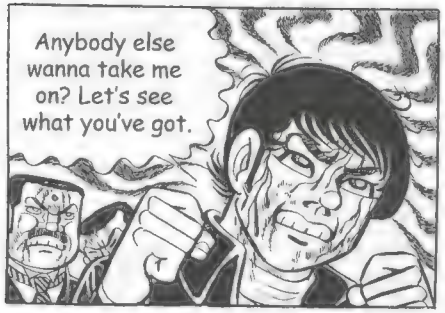
Sign: Science Lab




I've had enough of your swollen-headed claptrap!
BONK!
Urggh...
Gen!
Groan...
Th-there's nothing I hate more than a group of people...
ganging up on others... no matter what it's about.
I despise guys like you who always run in packs!
I despise people who band together and bully others!

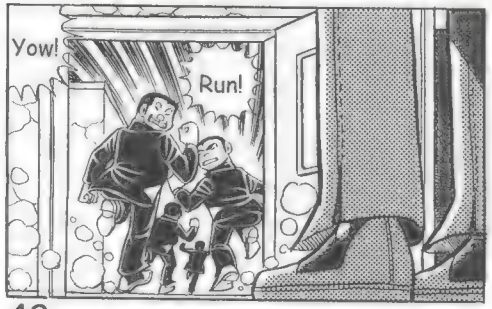

People who can't do anything by themselves disgust me.
.....
.....
Don't underestimate me, Yokomichi. I've got a lot of fighting under my belt.
Who the hell do you think you are? This oughta cut you down to size!
Nghk!
BIFF
SHADDUP!
THUD
CLATTER


Gurgle...
Yoko-michi!
You all right, Yokomichi?
Yoko-michi!


Anybody else wanna take me on? Let's see what you've got.


.....
.....
.....


Well, are you gonna fight or not? Make up your minds!
Yipe!
Urk!
Ack!
実


Yow!
Run!


Groan...


Y-you'll pay for this, Nakaoka...
Put a cork in it, wind-bag!
実験室

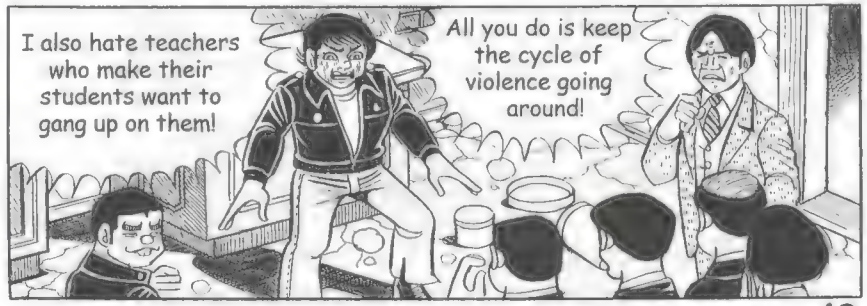

.....
.....


Gen, are you okay?
Pant pant...


Th-thank you, Nakaoka.


I'm afraid I misjudged you. Forgive me.
Same here.


I don't want your thanks, dammit!
Yipe!


I also hate teachers who make their students want to gang up on them!
All you do is keep the cycle of violence going around!


If you're gonna be a school-teacher...
you should do it because you really love working with kids, with all your heart.
When a student makes a mistake, you shouldn't scold him or preach at him.
You should share his sadness over the mistake and offer your sympathy and support.
Stop abusing your positions as teachers!
Your students see everything you do. Don't under-estimate them!
Let's go, Crapa-mori.
Yeah.
.....
.....
.....
CAWW
CAWW

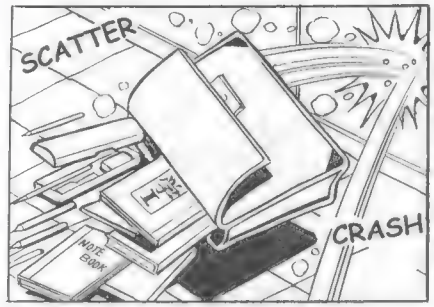

You know, Crapamori, I can't think of a single good memory from my school days.
Same here. Going hungry, crying every day, the A-bomb leveling the whole city... It's been one sad thing after another. I'm all worn out.
Well, I say it's time to stop looking back and concentrate on moving forward.
You're gonna be going on to high school. Good luck!
Thanks.
♪Bright young voices rise in song As the snow ♪ fields melt away And flowers burst into bloom...
♪ On greening mountains, Early blossoming cherries Beneath the vast blue sky ♪ Quicken our dreams today...
So long to those tired old cloaks, ♪ ♪ So long to those lonely dreams...
From green mountains To rose-colored clouds, For the maiden from afar, ♪ Lady of my longing, Even the birds are ♪ atwitter...


白十字
左官町
So long, Gen!
So long, Crapa-mori!
ミシン

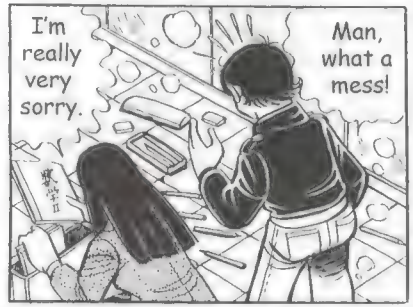

DING DING DING
DASH


Wait! Stop!

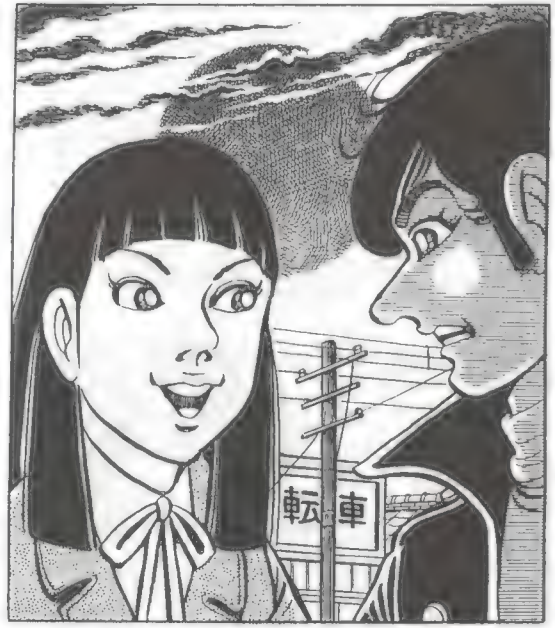

Oof!
BAM!
Urk!


SCATTER
CRASH
NOTE Book

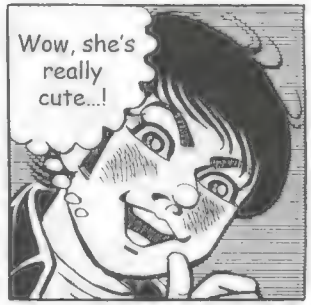

Ow! That hurt!
I-I'm sorry. I was trying to catch that street-car.


I'm really very sorry.
Man, what a mess!


Here, let me help you.
Th-that's very kind.
NOTE Book


転車


Th-thank you.


Wow, she's really cute...!



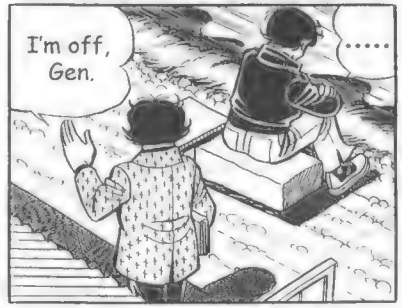

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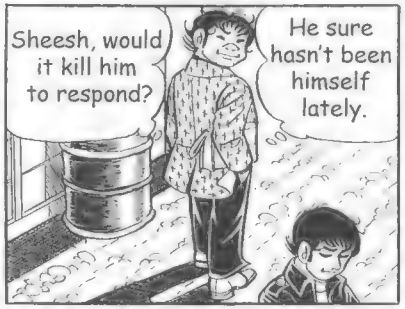

Sigh...

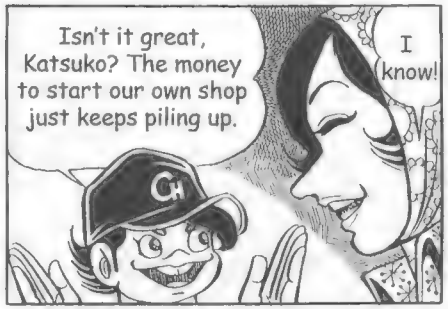

Sigh...


I gotta go collect from Très Bien and Akebono-ya today. Busy, busy!
Hee hee, we just keep raking it in!

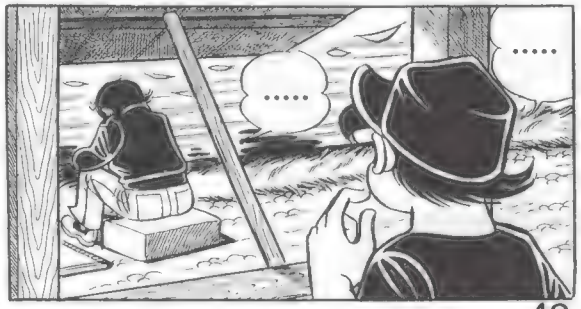

See you in a bit.
Right. Be careful with the money!
Good luck!


I'm off, Gen.
.....


Sheesh, would it kill him to respond?
He sure hasn't been himself lately.


Isn't it great, Katsuko? The money to start our own shop just keeps piling up.
I know!



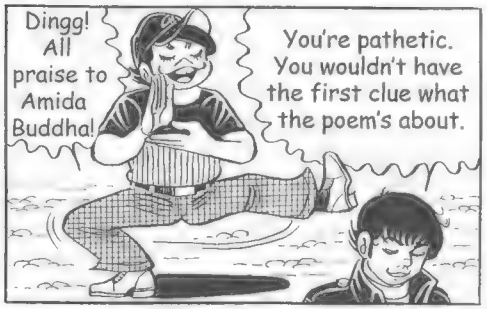

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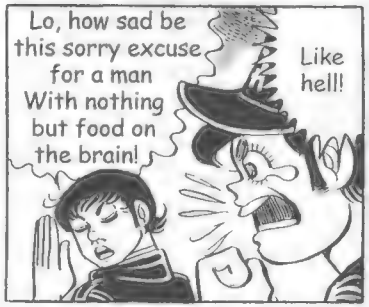




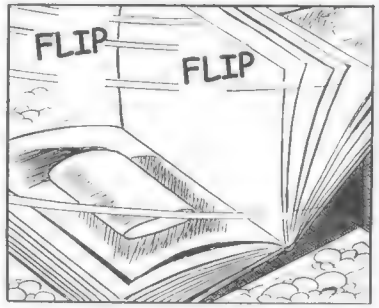
*Poet and novelist, 1872-1943 (English translation by Wayne P. Lammers)


"When unawares I heaved a blissful sigh,
And on your flowing tresses fell my breath,
So tenderly did you let me drink
From the rapturous goblet of love...
Beneath the trees in the apple grove
A narrow footpath appeared in the grass:
'Who could it be who first trod this way?'
You asked, and ensnared my heart the more."


Dingg! All praise to Amida Buddha!
You're pathetic. You wouldn't have the first clue what the poem's about.


Lo, how sad be this sorry excuse for a man With nothing but food on the brain!
Like hell!

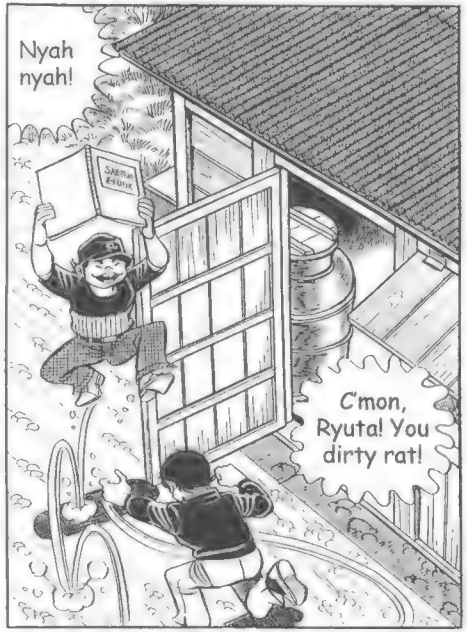

My heart goes out to you, Ryuta, you poor creature.
Shut up! Shut up! Shut up!


FLIP
FLIP

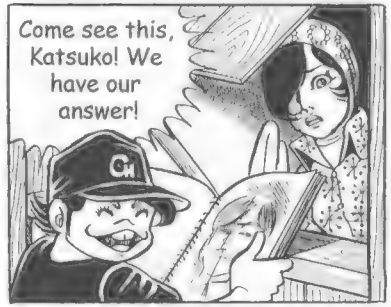

Hm?


Oho! Now I get it!
This is why you've been moaning and sighing for the last three months.
SKETCH BOOK

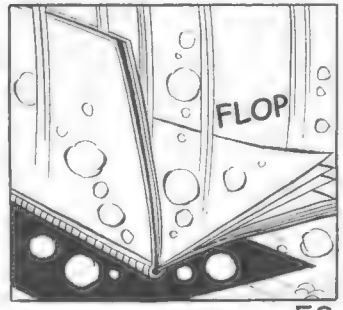

HYUK HYUK
Hey! Give that back!
SKETCH BOOK


Nyah nyah!
C'mon, Ryuta! You dirty rat!


Hey, Katsuko! I figured out what's been ailing Gen!
Give it back, Ryuta!
SKETCH BOOK


Come see this, Katsuko! We have our answer!


Damn you!
BONK!
Yow!
SKETCH BOOK

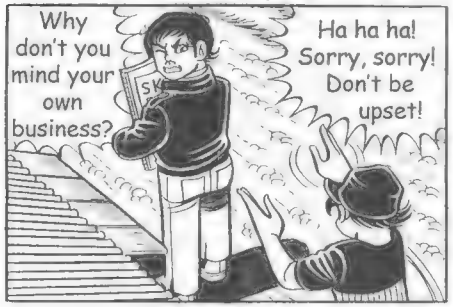

FLOP

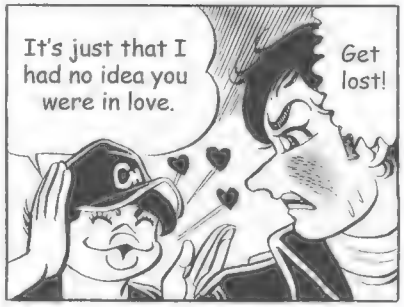


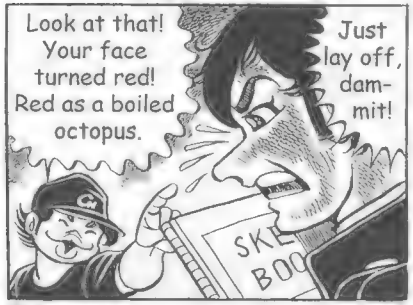
I want to see you again. Where can I find you?
I love you! I love you! I love you!
I want to be with you forever.





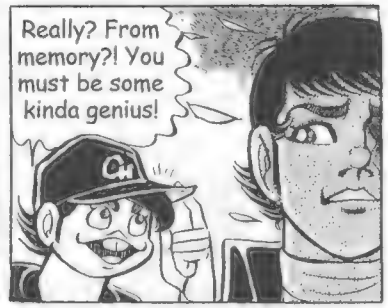






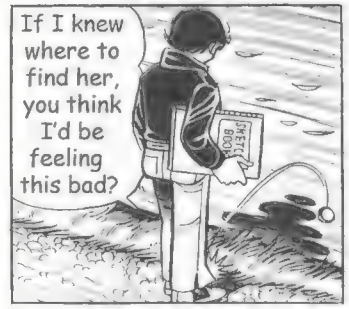






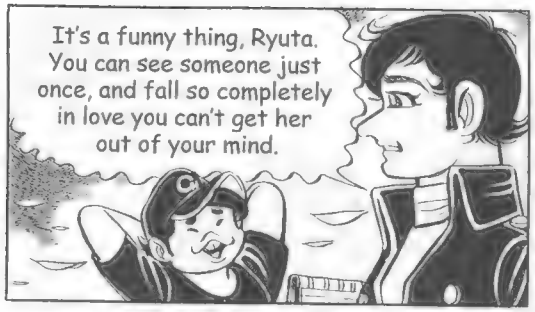






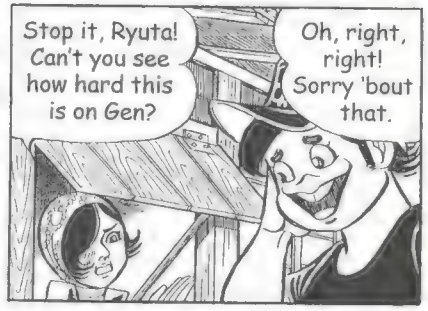






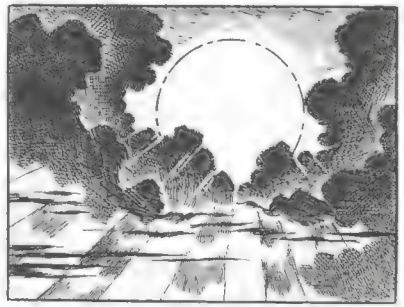




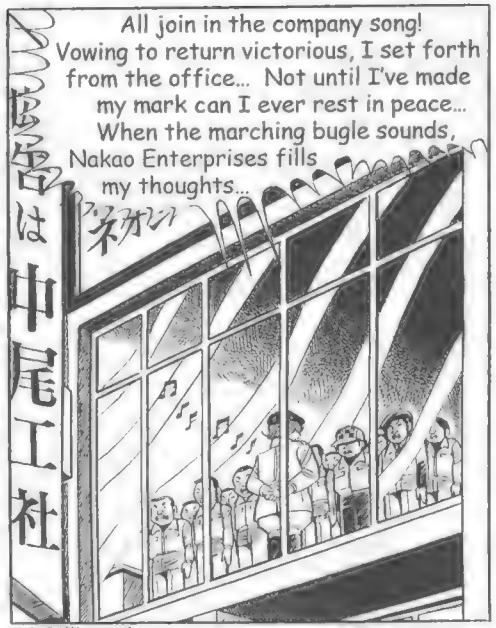












Sign: Nakao Enterprises -- Neon Signs & Billboards



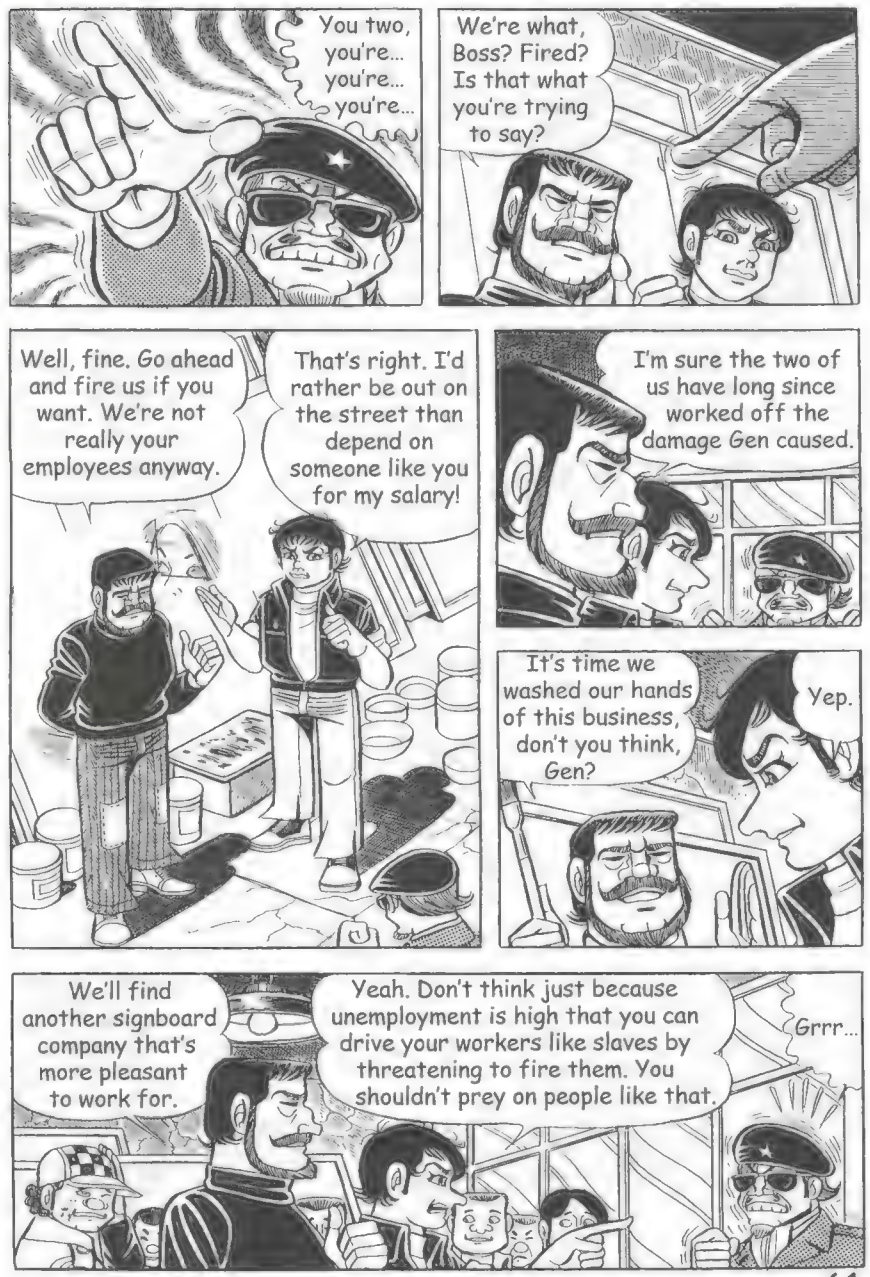




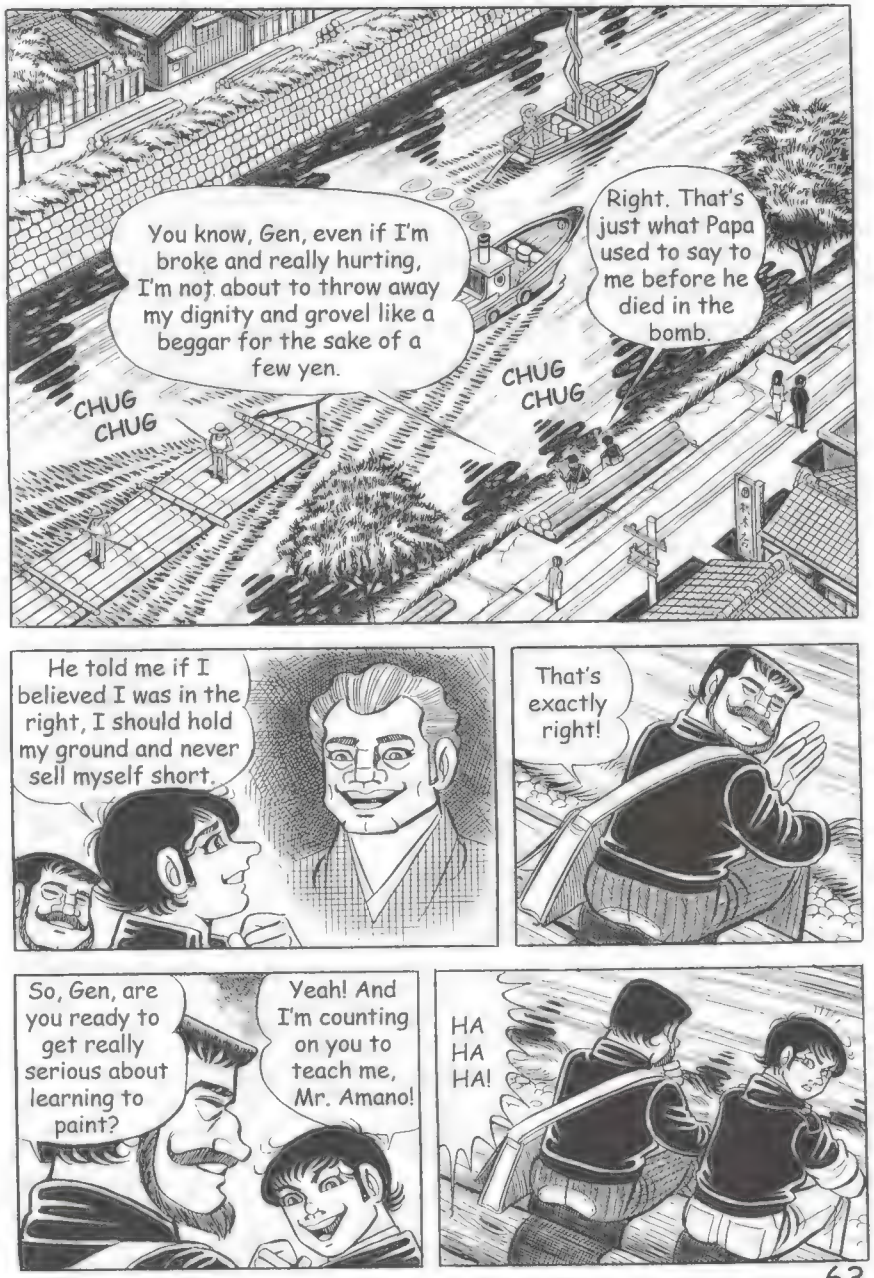

I weep for you. I weep for all you useless bums who've lost the fighting spirit of our ancestors.
If Japan keeps turning out losers like you, our businesses will fail and the country will be doomed!
Now, the Imperial Army and Navy knew how to turn out real men of character -- men who held their own against the entire world in a great war. That alone was a tremendous achievement!
You pansies need to learn from the fighting spirit of the Imperial Army and Navy!
If we'd only had the natural resources, Japan would never have yielded to the enemy because of a lousy A-bomb or two.
But we ran out of resources and had to abandon the fight. That was a truly sad day.
Yawwnnn...


I saw that, Kurosaki! How dare you yawn while I'm speaking!
S-sorry, sir.
Silence! You yawned because your spirit is rotten to the core!
Uh-oh...
Ungh...
POW!
You worthless bum!
CRASH
.....
.....
Take it easy, Mr. Nakao. You're so out of step with the times, it's not funny.
The way you keep spouting all this militarist drivel -- you should be ashamed of yourself!
Sh-shut your trap!


Living in Hiroshima, you should know better than anyone how cruel war is.
You should know better than anyone the horror of the A-bomb.
Save your breath! There'll always be war, and I don't give a fart about the A-bomb!
I suppose you had a fine time handing out orders in the army. It's not so fun for the ones who get those orders, you know.
That's right! Those orders are what get people killed!
Stop singing the praises of the military and glorifying war!
Stop playing soldier. It makes you look like a fool!
You're embarrassing us.
Ain't that the truth!
Too many people like you have already forgotten just how bad things were during the war. You go around spouting all this nostalgic crap about it. You're ridiculous!
Grrr...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE


You two, you're... you're... you're...
We're what, Boss? Fired? Is that what you're trying to say?
Well, fine. Go ahead and fire us if you want. We're not really your employees anyway.
That's right. I'd rather be out on the street than depend on someone like you for my salary!
I'm sure the two of us have long since worked off the damage Gen caused.
It's time we washed our hands of this business, don't you think, Gen?
Yep.
We'll find another signboard company that's more pleasant to work for.
Yeah. Don't think just because unemployment is high that you can drive your workers like slaves by threatening to fire them. You shouldn't prey on people like that.
Grrr...


Y-you're fired! You're both fired!
YOU'RE FIRED!!!
Fine with us.
Sure thing. We'll be glad to quit on our own anyway, so you can relax.
Good riddance, eh, Mr. Otsuki?
Heh heh heh...
Hee hee hee!
Urnk!
BIFF!
What's so funny? Are you laughing at me?!
Arrrgh! Those no-good punks!


You know, Gen, even if I'm broke and really hurting, I'm not about to throw away my dignity and grovel like a beggar for the sake of a few yen.
Right. That's just what Papa used to say to me before he died in the bomb.
CHUG CHUG
CHUG CHUG
He told me if I believed I was in the right, I should hold my ground and never sell myself short.
That's exactly right!
So, Gen, are you ready to get really serious about learning to paint?
Yeah! And I'm counting on you to teach me, Mr. Amano!
HA HA HA!


Gulp!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
It's...
It's her!
Ha ha ha...
Bye!
See ya!
Lan lan♪ ♪ lan...
I've found her! I've finally found her!

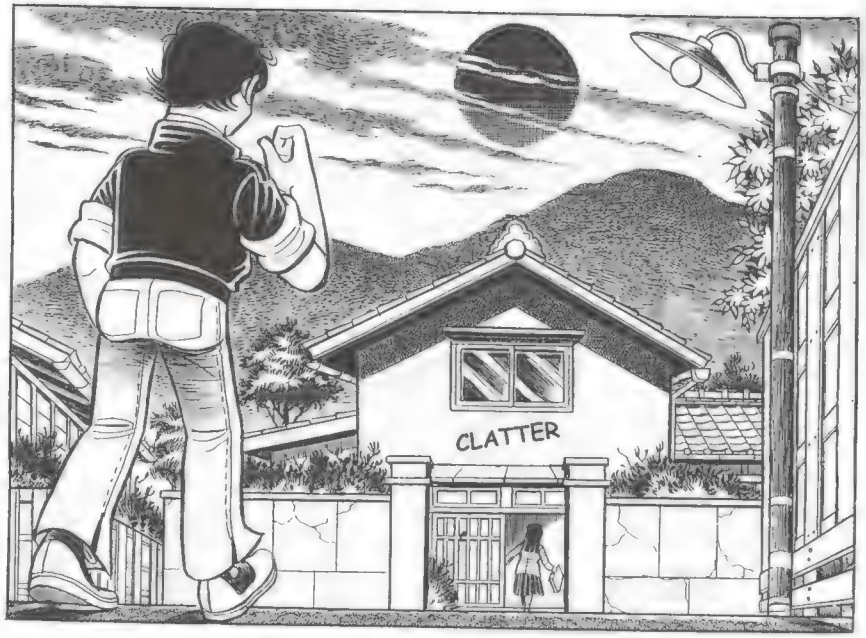

Lan lan♪ ♪ lan...
パン
Gen! Where're you going?
Bye, Mr. Amano! I'll see you tomorrow!
What got into him all of a sudden? Weird kid.
WOBBLE WOBBLE
Huff puff... I've finally found her... I've found the girl I love... I hope it's not a dream...
Pant pant...
Oh, man! What's wrong with me? My heart feels like it's gonna explode!
Pant pant... I feel so happy... I feel like I'm suffo-cating...
TREMBLE



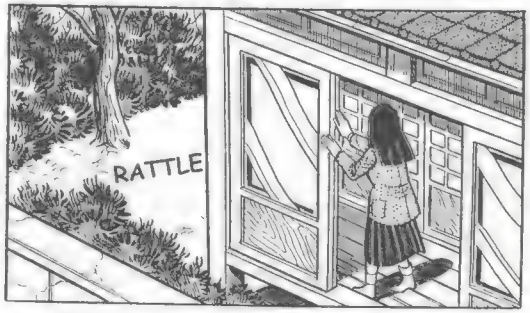


Bus sign: For Ushida

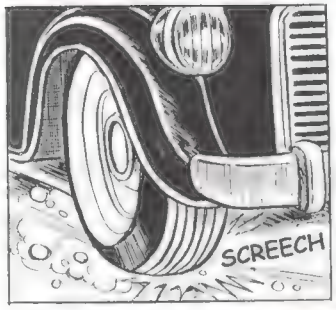


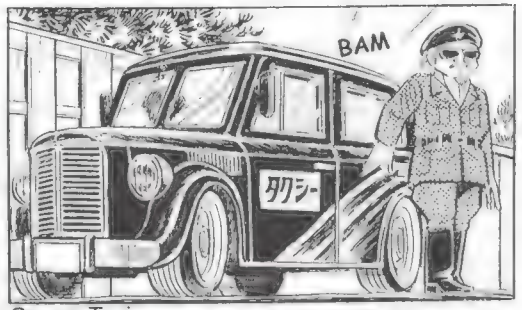

CLATTER


So this is where she lives.


RATTLE

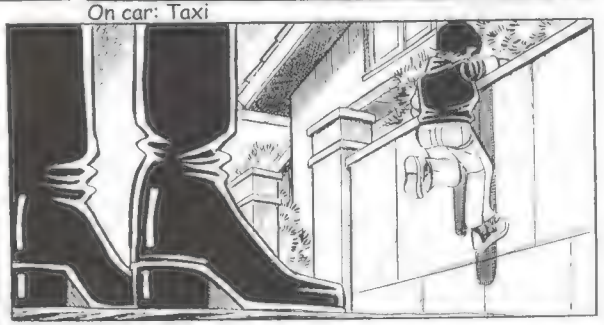

♪ Lan lan lan... ♪
What do I say to her? How do I get her to like me? I can't stand this...


SCREECH


BAM
タクシー

On car: Taxi


Hm?




Gen! What the hell are you doing up there?
Huh? M-Mister Nakao?!


Did you come here to make trouble because you're still mad at me?


N-no! Not at all!


Don't deny it! You've already insulted me once too often!
You can't mess with me and get away with it!
Take that, you punk!
Y-you don't understand, Mr. Nakao!
CLATTER
F-father?! Th-this man is your father?!
Father, what are you shouting about? You'll worry the neighbors.
Why should you be so surprised that I'm her father?
It's--it's not possible!

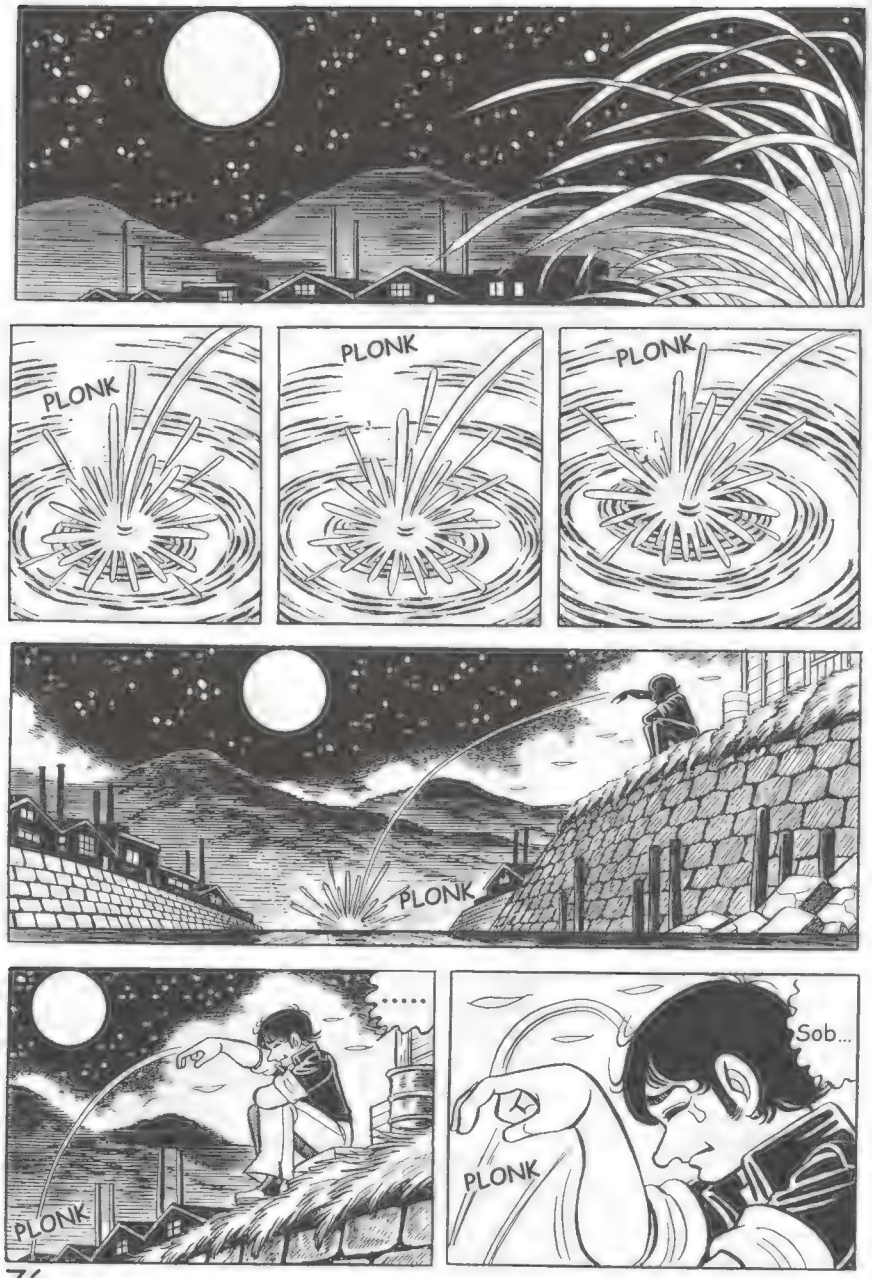

It's a lie, it's a lie, it has to be a lie!
You can't possibly be her father!
I'm telling you that I am most definitely Mitsuko's father. What's it to you?
No! No!!
It can't be!
Please tell me you're pulling my leg!
You have to tell me it's not true. Please!
Have you gone crazy, Gen?


H-her father can't possibly be anybody like you. I refuse to believe it!
You don't know when to stop, do you. I've had enough of this!
Oh! You're the boy from when...
I'm so sorry! I was in such a hurry...
Mitsuko! Are you saying you actually know Gen?
Um, yes, just a little.
You idiot! Don't you ever speak another word to this punk!
I won't have you keeping company with him!
I absolutely forbid it!


And so help me, Gen, if I ever catch you anywhere near Mitsuko again, I'll kill you.
I'm not letting the likes of you sully my precious daughter's name!
But Father! I owe this boy an apology.
Quiet! I don't give a damn about that!
STOMP!
You hear me, Mitsuko? I don't want you speaking to him again!
I don't want you ever seeing him again. Never, never, never!
He's insulted me. He's made me look bad.
I'll never forgive him for what he's done.
Go on! Get outta here! Scram!

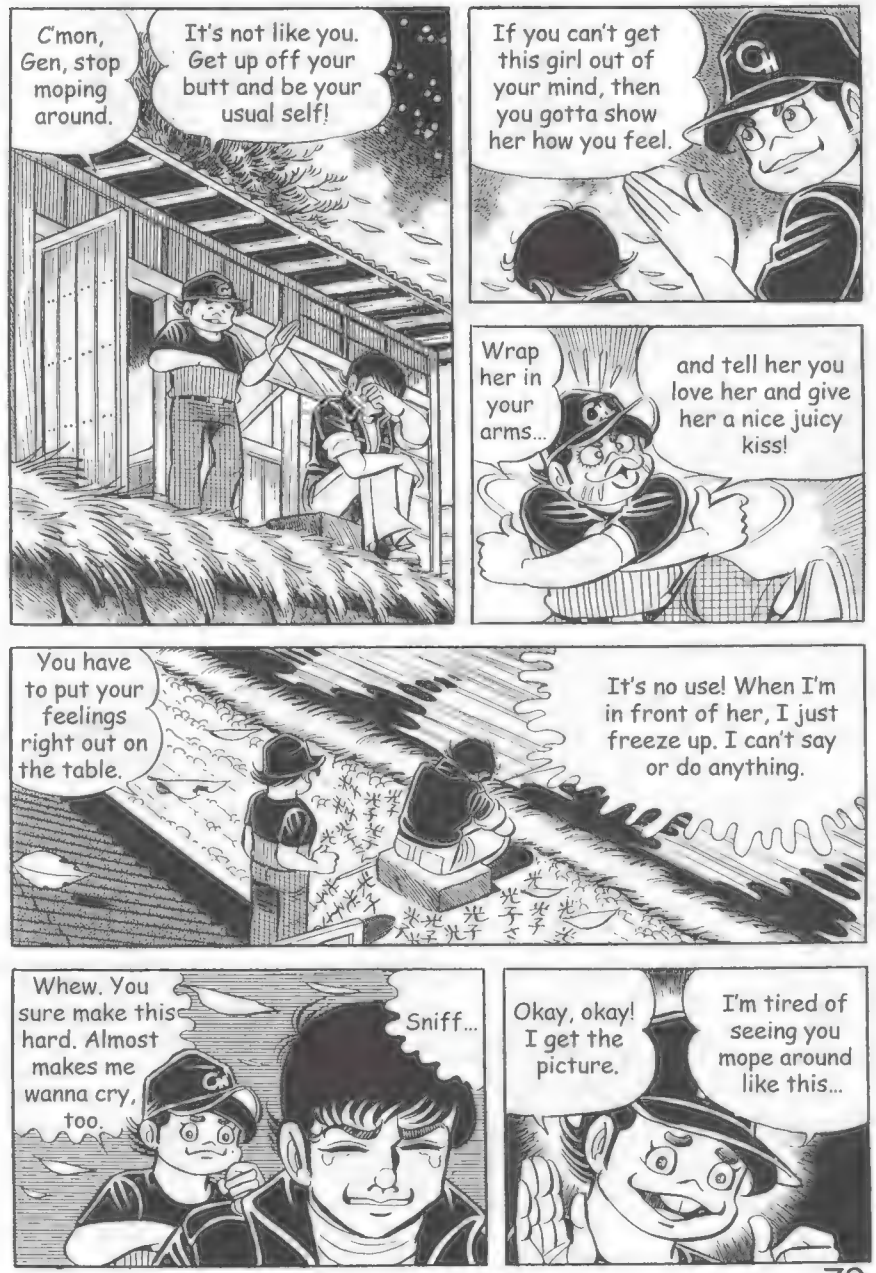

Sob...
Are you deaf? Didn't you hear me tell you to get lost?
RATTLE
You fool! Don't you ever come around here again!
Ow!
CHUNK KA-CHUNK
Get out! Go! Move it!
CHUNK KA-CHUNK
Moan...
It can't be true. I refuse to believe it! He can't be her father!
IT'S A LIE!
DASH


Don't you ever come back here!
If I ever catch you with Mitsuko, I'll blow you full of holes with my shotgun. You got that?
Sob...
Pant pant. You damn punk!
.....
Come on Mitsuko, I want my dinner!
Cook me up something good. I've got a bad taste in my mouth.
.....
That little jerk really makes my blood boil.
RATTLE SLAM
CAWW
CAWW


PLONK
PLONK
PLONK
PLONK
.....
Sob...
PLONK
PLONK


.....
光子
光子さん
.....
.....
On ground: Mitsuko, Mitsuko, Mitsuko...
What're we gonna do about Gen? I hate to see him looking so down.
It had to be a shock to find out that the father of the girl he loves is a man he can't stand.
Heh! There's as many girls as there are stars in the sky. If he can't stand this one's dad, he oughta just forget about her and move on!
Silly! That's easier said than done -- which is exactly why he's so miserable.

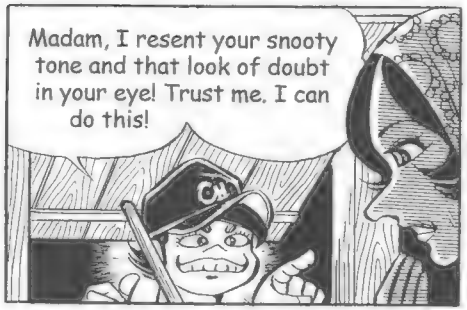

If everybody were a cool customer like you, Ryuta, the world wouldn't have any poetry, or songs, or art, or plays, or movies...
It's because men and women fall in love and can't let go...
that people create all those things.
Huh. Is that right?
Uh-huh. And it's the love between men and women that gives them a reason to go on living.
Well, that's too compli-cated for me.
SOB
Sob... Sniffle...
Now he's actually crying. Whaddaya think we should do, Katsuko?
Go see if you can cheer him up.


C'mon, Gen, stop moping around.
It's not like you. Get up off your butt and be your usual self!
If you can't get this girl out of your mind, then you gotta show her how you feel.
Wrap her in your arms...
and tell her you love her and give her a nice juicy kiss!
You have to put your feelings right out on the table.
It's no use! When I'm in front of her, I just freeze up. I can't say or do anything.
Whew. You sure make this hard. Almost makes me wanna cry, too.
Sniff...
Okay, okay! I get the picture.
I'm tired of seeing you mope around like this...


So I'll fix you up with Mitsuko. Just leave it to me.
You'll fix me up?


You can do that?
Consider it done!


Are you sure about this, Ryuta?
What's that supposed to mean?

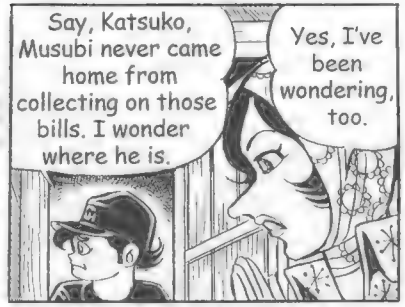

Madam, I resent your snooty tone and that look of doubt in your eye! Trust me. I can do this!

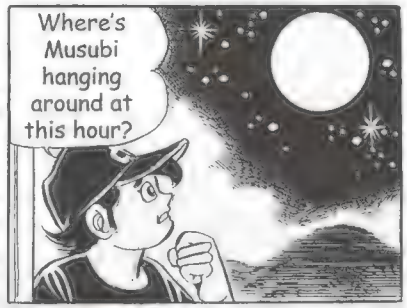

Hee hee hee. I'm gonna fix it so you and Mitsuko can have a date, Gen, so cheer up! Be happy!


I hope you really mean it, Ryuta. I'm counting on you!


Never fear, Ryuta is here!
I can fix up a couple hundred lovers any old day!
BRRAAAP
THUMP THUMP


So c'mon, Gen, it's dinner time. Eat up and cheer up!
That's right, Gen. You need to eat properly.


Say, Katsuko, Musubi never came home from collecting on those bills. I wonder where he is.
Yes, I've been wondering, too.


Where's Musubi hanging around at this hour?


銀行
関西美人
白牡丹
北婆美人
トリスバーA
三河屋
たばこ
レストラン
BAR









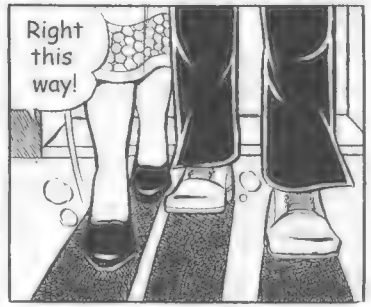
Signs: Bar Madonna, Bar Hiroko











Sign: Bar Madonna

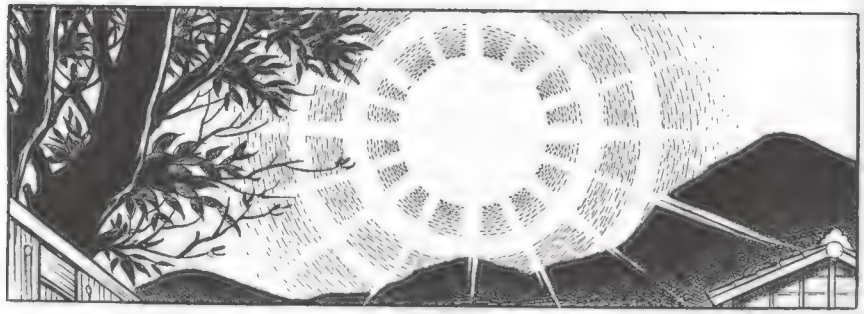


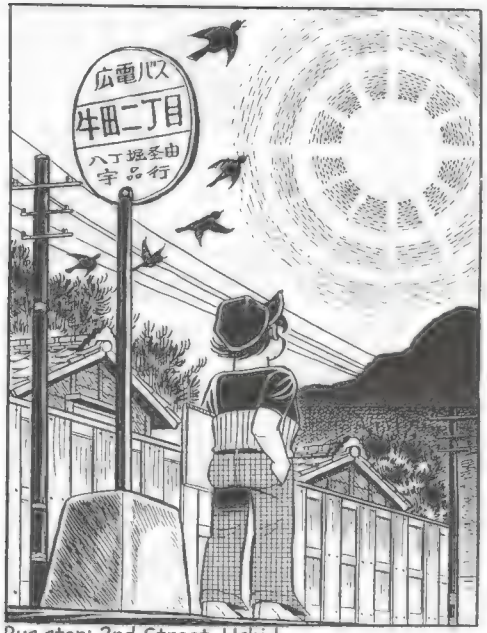


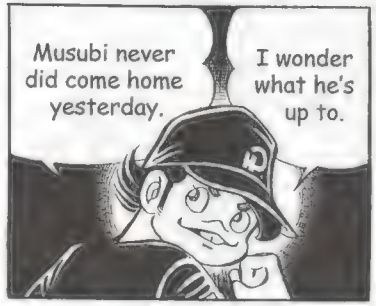



Cheers! Here's to drinking and dancing and partying all night long! Hey, you're a real cutie pie. Let's whoop it up!
.....
We've got ourselves an easy mark. He's loaded.
Come on, let's dance!
I don't know how.
That's okay, I can teach you.
All right! It's the "G.I. Blues"!
WOO HOO!


Stop, stop, that's enough! I'm exhausted as it is. I can't dance any more.
No problem, no problem!
I can give you a shot that'll pep you right up again.
A shot?
It's a secret formula. Works like a charm.
You'll be full of energy again in no time. Guaranteed!
So come on, let's dance!
GRIN
サロン麻理
M
クラブ黒ばら
キャバレー
BAR マドンナ
お福
寿司金









Bus stop: 2nd Street, Ushida























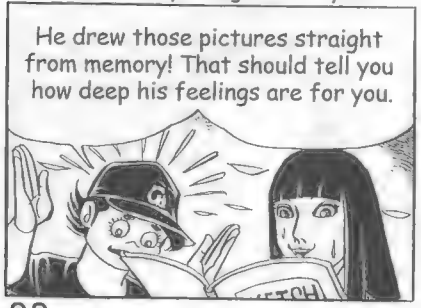
In sketchbook: I want to see you again. Where can I find you? I love you! I love you! I love you! I want to see you and share my thoughts with you.



I love you! I love you so much!



Love, love, love, love... I love you so much!









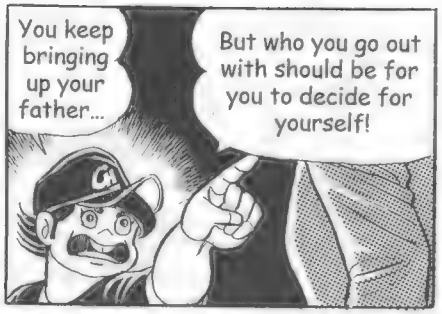











You keep bringing up your father...
But who you go out with should be for you to decide for yourself!


Please! I'm begging you. Pretty please!!
But my father...


There you go again!
Don't you have any will of your own?

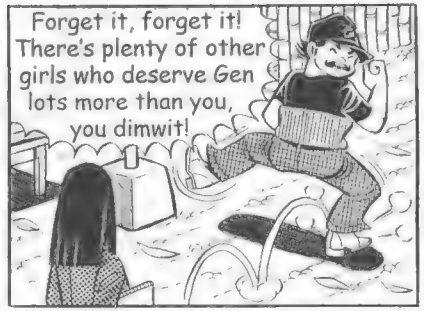

Make up your own mind whether you like Gen or not!
I can hardly do that when I don't even know him.


That's exactly why I'm asking you to go out with him. So you can get to know him. Are you totally dense?
But...

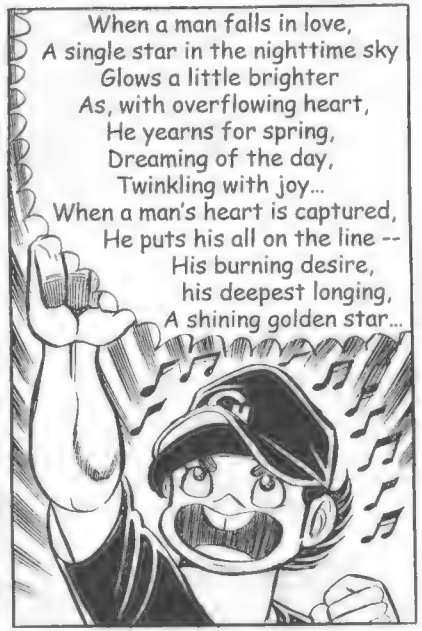

Oh, come on! Are you some kind of halfwit?
This is ridic-ulous! Forget it!


You're not even worthy of him! I'd feel sorry for Gen if he went out with you.


Dammit! What're you being so pigheaded about? Stop putting on airs!

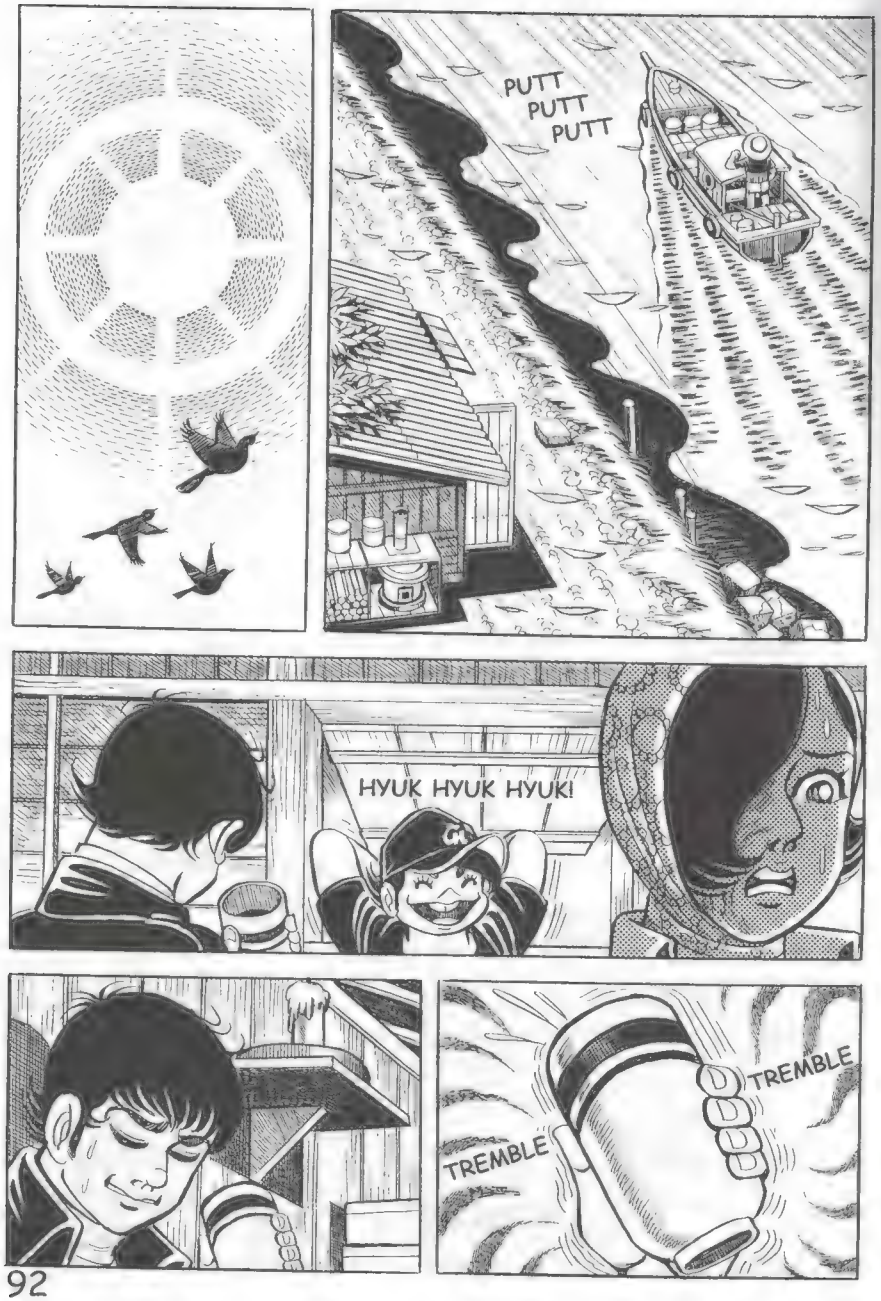

Forget it, forget it! There's plenty of other girls who deserve Gen lots more than you, you dimwit!


Boy, do I feel like an idiot. I can't believe I actually begged you.
.....


When a man falls in love,
A single star in the nighttime sky
Glows a little brighter
As, with overflowing heart,
He yearns for spring,
Dreaming of the day,
Twinkling with joy...
When a man's heart is captured,
He puts his all on the line --
His burning desire,
his deepest longing,
A shining golden star...


Pinhead! I guess a woman just can't understand what the song's trying to say.
You're hopeless!

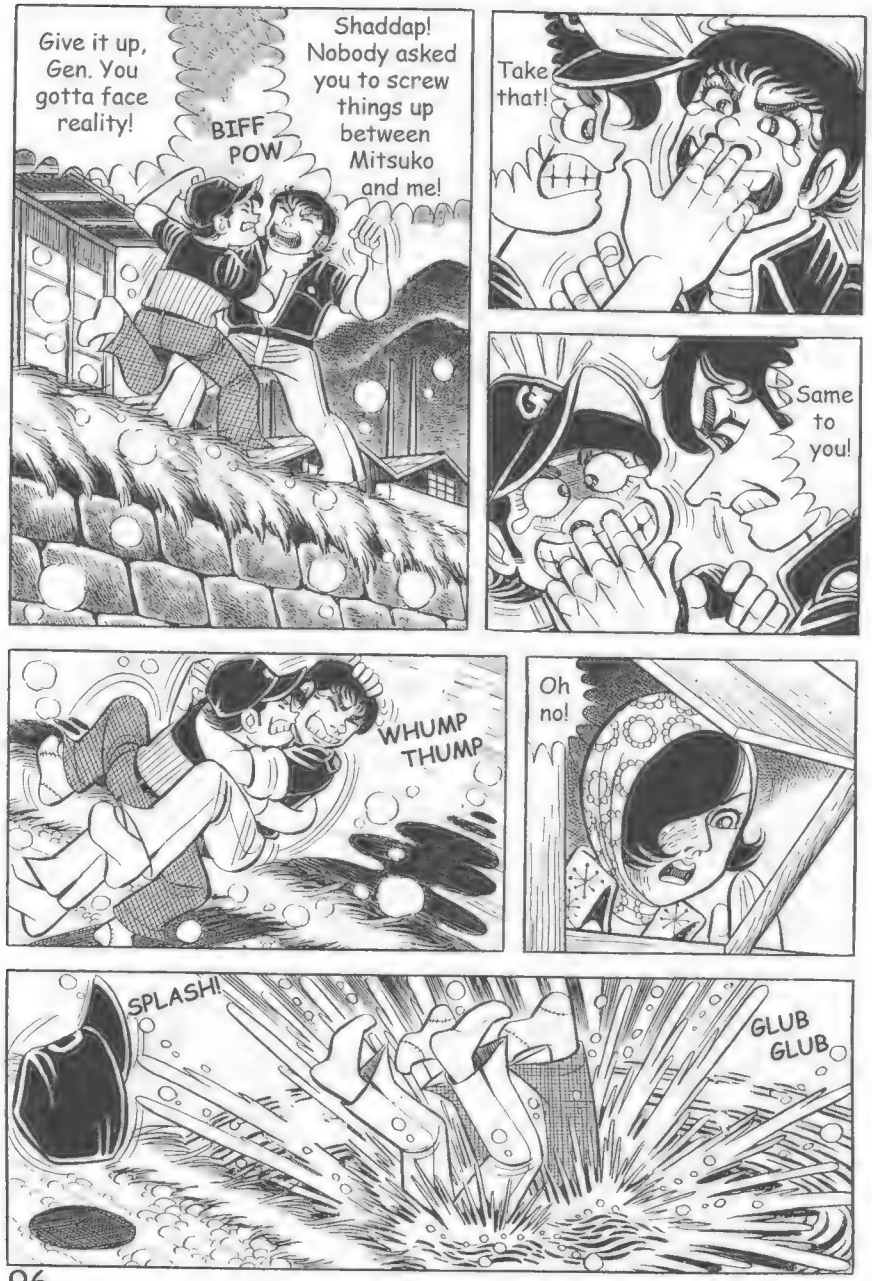

.....


PUTT
PUTT
PUTT
HYUK HYUK HYUK!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

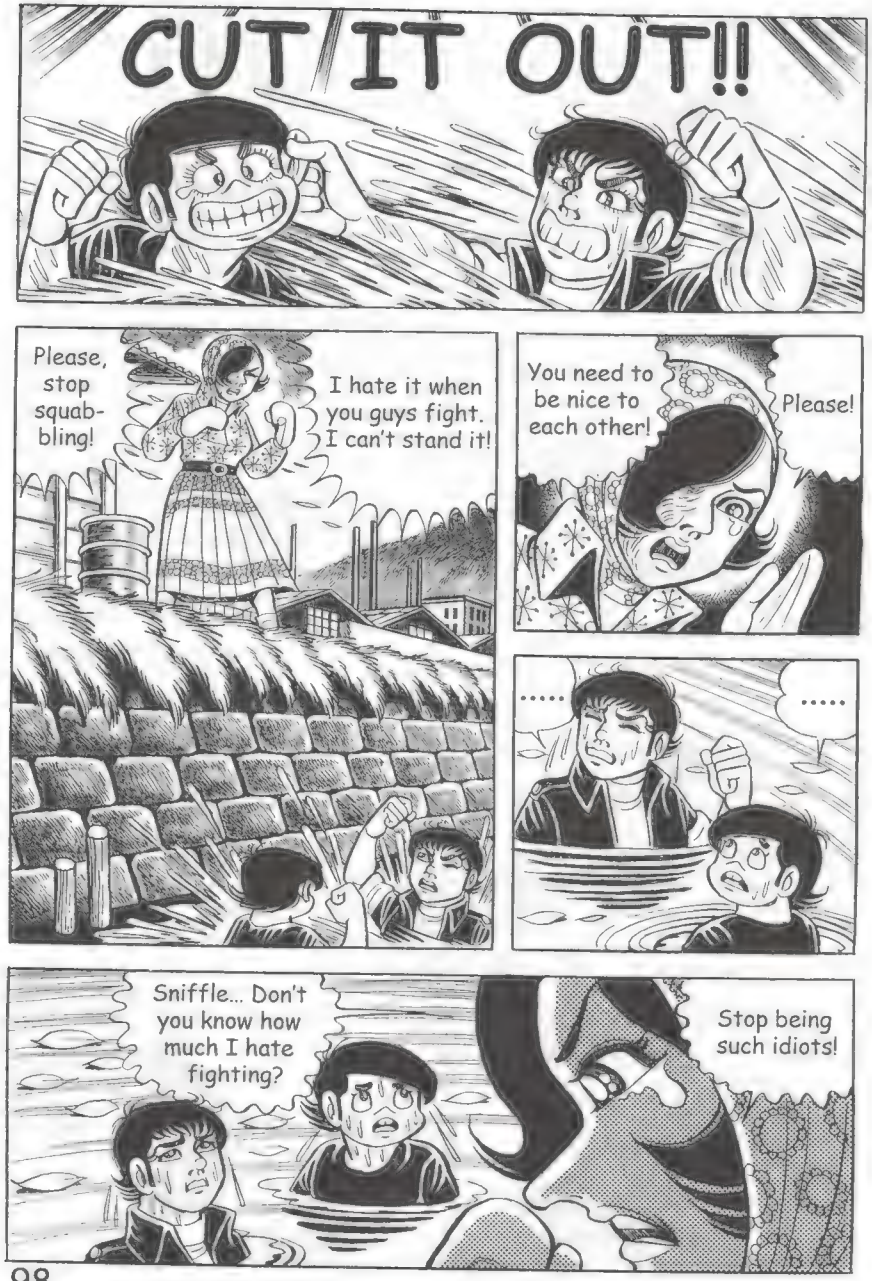

Ha ha ha! Gen, you should just forget about her. Put her outta your mind!
There're plenty of girls better than her. I'll even find you one!
Ack!
GLARE
Damn you, Ryuta! You... you...
You had no right to --
Ai-yi-yi! Gen, you're scaring me!
Now, take it easy! Don't look at me like that! Calm down!
.....


Yikes!
Come on, Gen!
Stop glaring at me like that!
.....
Y-you piece of shit!
You've crushed my most precious hopes to nothing!
H-hey, I was only trying to help!
You're better off forgetting about Mitsuko.
Worrying yourself sick over the likes of her is a total waste. There's plenty of better girls.
Shut up!
SMASH!
Ungh!


For me, she's the only girl in the world!
She's my special angel!
Urnk!
And now, thanks to you, I'll never see her again!
BOP!
WHOP!
Moron! Shit for brains!
Ow-ow-ow!
Give it a rest! Stop being a baby!
Urgh!
She's not worth losing your head over!
Unh!
Now you've done it!
Piss on you!
Gen! Ryuta! Cut it out!


Give it up, Gen. You gotta face reality!
BIFF POW
Shaddap! Nobody asked you to screw things up between Mitsuko and me!
Take that!
Same to you!
WHUMP THUMP
Oh no!
SPLASH!
GLUB GLUB


You're an asshole, Ryuta!
Urp!
You're gonna get it, turd-face!
SPLOSH
Take a drink!
KERPLASH
GLUG GLUG
Nice try!
SPLOSH!
Scum-bag!
SPLASH
KERPLASH
Stuff it, pants-pisser!
Stop!!
Gen! Ryuta! Stop fighting!


CUT IT OUT!!
Please, stop squab-bling!
I hate it when you guys fight. I can't stand it!
You need to be nice to each other!
Please!
.....
.....
Sniffle... Don't you know how much I hate fighting?
Stop being such idiots!


A mountain has a mountain's griefs,
The sea has the sea's sorrows...
All the more for the thistle flower
Blooming in the garden of my heart...
High over the mountain pasture
A lone goose flies at twilight
As I awaken alone, all alone
In the saddle of my horse...
Hey-ho, hey-ho!
CLICK
Hm?
.....
.....


Why all the grim faces?
Hey, you're creeping me out!
.....
What's going on, Katsuko?
Gen and Ryuta had a big fight.
Well, that's a dumbass thing to do.
Why doncha try something more fun? You guys are pathetic.
FUME
You watch what you say, Musubi!
Don't act like such a big shot!
Who was it who didn't come home yesterday and worried us all sick?
You've got a lotta nerve to be preaching to us!
Where the hell have you been?
GRRR


Since when am I supposed to report every last thing I do to you guys?
I'm not your slave. It's my own business where I go and when I choose to come home!
W-what th--?
I have every right to make time for myself in whatever way I see fit.
Who asked you to worry about me?
You've got some nerve! After we worried all night about what could've happened to you!
You're just trying to pick a fight with me now!
Shut up! What would you know?!
Stop talking so high and mighty or I'll beat you to a pulp!
Like hell! I'd like to see you try!

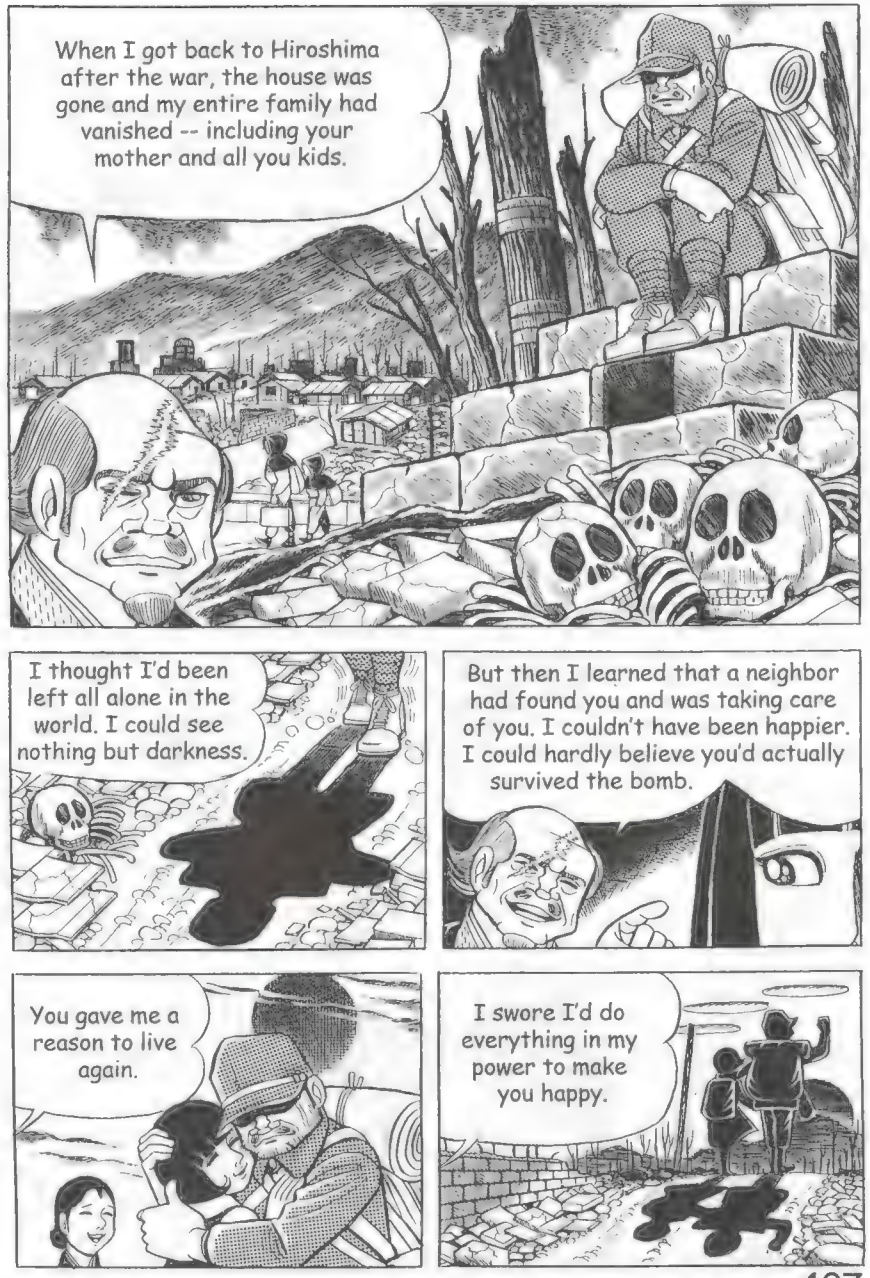

STOP IT!
STOP IT!
STOP IT!
Sob... I've had all I can take.
I can't stand all this fighting.
Please, can't we get along?
.....
.....
.....
Please don't go at each other's throats like this!
Hmph! I come home in a great mood,
and all I get is Ryuta yelling at me.
I've got no reason to stick around where I'm not welcome.


Wait, Musubi, where are you going?
To get back my good mood.
Well, get it back quick and hurry home, okay?
Sniff... I hate this. Everybody seems to be splitting apart.
It makes me feel so alone, and sad, and afraid.
Sorry. It's all my fault.
Every-thing's my fault.
Forgive me, Ryuta, Katsuko!
Please forgive me!


SKETCH BOOK
大好きだ
好きだ
.....
SKETCH
He drew those pictures straight from memory!
That should tell you how deep his feelings are for you.


That's why I'm asking you to go out with Gen. He's a great guy, really he is!
SKETCH BOOK
I'm a lucky girl to have someone who feels this way about me.
And he's actually kinda cute, with those bright, sparkling eyes.
RATTLE
SKETCH BOOK
Cough...
.....
FLOP


Is something troubling you, Mitsuko?
Uh, no... Why?
I noticed you've been awfully quiet today, so I was worried.
I've just been thinking about some things.
No matter what might be on your mind, I want you to know you can always come to me.
がんばれ広島！
There's nothing in the world I wouldn't do for you.
I-I know.
You're the only flesh and blood I have left.
I love you more than anything, Mitsuko.
You know that, don't you?
Y-yes.


When I got back to Hiroshima after the war, the house was gone and my entire family had vanished -- including your mother and all you kids.
I thought I'd been left all alone in the world. I could see nothing but darkness.
But then I learned that a neighbor had found you and was taking care of you. I couldn't have been happier. I could hardly believe you'd actually survived the bomb.
You gave me a reason to live again.
I swore I'd do everything in my power to make you happy.


Luckily, we could buy leftover army printer's ink for cheap, so I started a signboard company, and it turned into a success.
Today we're the biggest signboard outfit in Hiroshima.
Now all I care about is seeing you married to a man of the highest caliber.
Someone who has everything -- social standing, education, financial means.
Then, surrounded by my grandchildren, I'll work to ensure the lasting prosperity of the Nakao family.
Oh, how I look forward to that day!
And you can look forward to it, too. Because I'm going to find you that perfect husband.
I hate it when my dad tries to push what HE wants down my throat.


Don't you have any will of your own?
Make up your own mind whether you like Gen or not!
Come on! Are you some kind of halfwit?
Don't be ridiculous. Of course I have a will of my own!
I'm not just my father's puppet.
SKETCH BOOK
.....


BAR マドンナ
クラブドリーム
BAR マドンナ
ヒロ子
PLOP
Stupid jerk... giving me nothing but grief...
You take me for a fool?!
Mumble... mumble...
Now, now, don't go to sleep!
Come on, wake up. Have a drink with me.
Urp... Nooo... no more... wanna sleep...
Don't say that! The night is young!
Okay, then, how about you give me one of those shots you gave me yesterday?
Sure thing!


Boss, how about a little booster for Cutie Pie here? I think he likes the stuff.
GRIN
We'll have you pepped up in no time. Roll up your sleeve.
Thanks. This really picked me right up yesterday.
PRICK
What's in these shots anyway?
Loads of vitamins.
Man, I can just feel the energy pumping through me!
This stuff really works. I'm wide awake and good to go!
Here, drink up, drink up!
You bet!

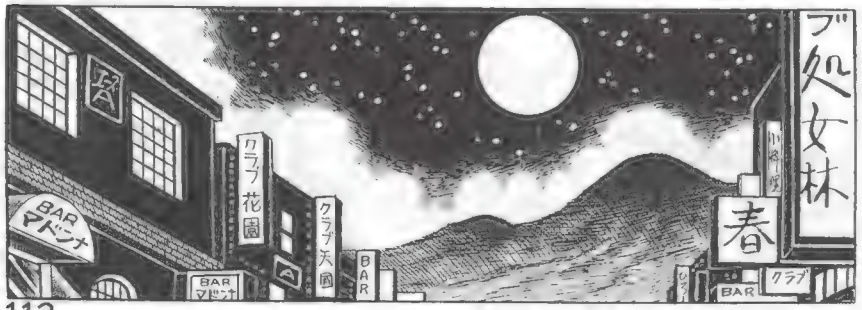

When you're feeling down, just drink up and dance your heart out!
Yeah! Let's do it!


GLUG GLUG


Hey, hey! Come on, baby, come on!
Yeah! Yeah!


GRIN


GRIN


BAR マドンナ
クラブ花園
クラブ天国
BAR
BAR
春
クラブ
処女林


CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
GARGLE GARGLE


Musubi stayed out all night again...
Wonder where he's keeping himself?


It's my fault for making him mad.
I need to apol-ogize.


Sorry for being such a stupid jerk and picking a fight with you, Ryuta.
Hey, it was my fault, too. I opened my big mouth and messed things up for you with Mitsuko.


Well, it's better if I just forget about her, anyway.
Look, I'm really sorry, Gen.


Huh?

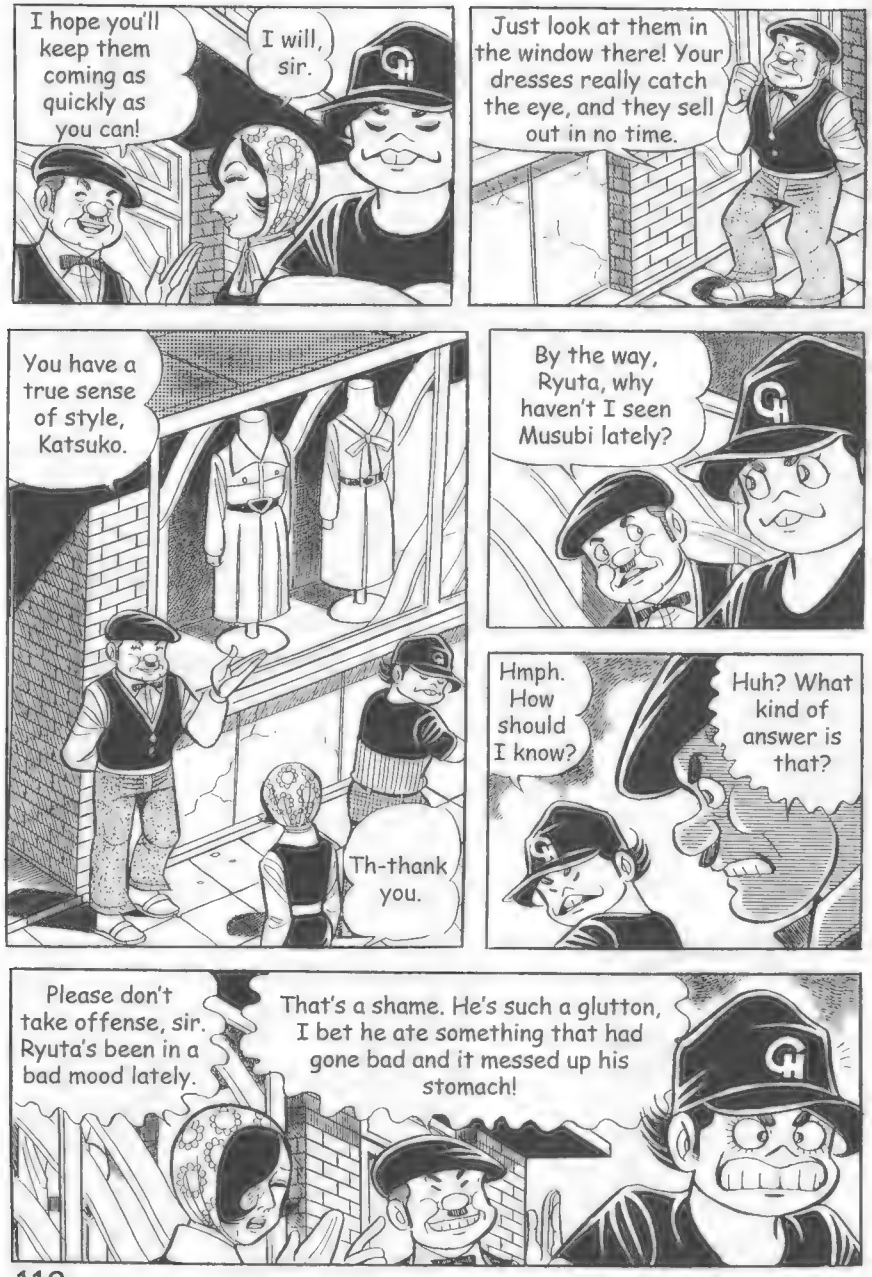

RUB
RUB
M-M-Mitsuko?!
Good morning, Gen Nakaoka. I wanted to thank you, so I went to my father's company and got your address.
Th-thank me for what?
For this book of drawings!
Whoa... this is embarrassing.
SKETCH BOOK

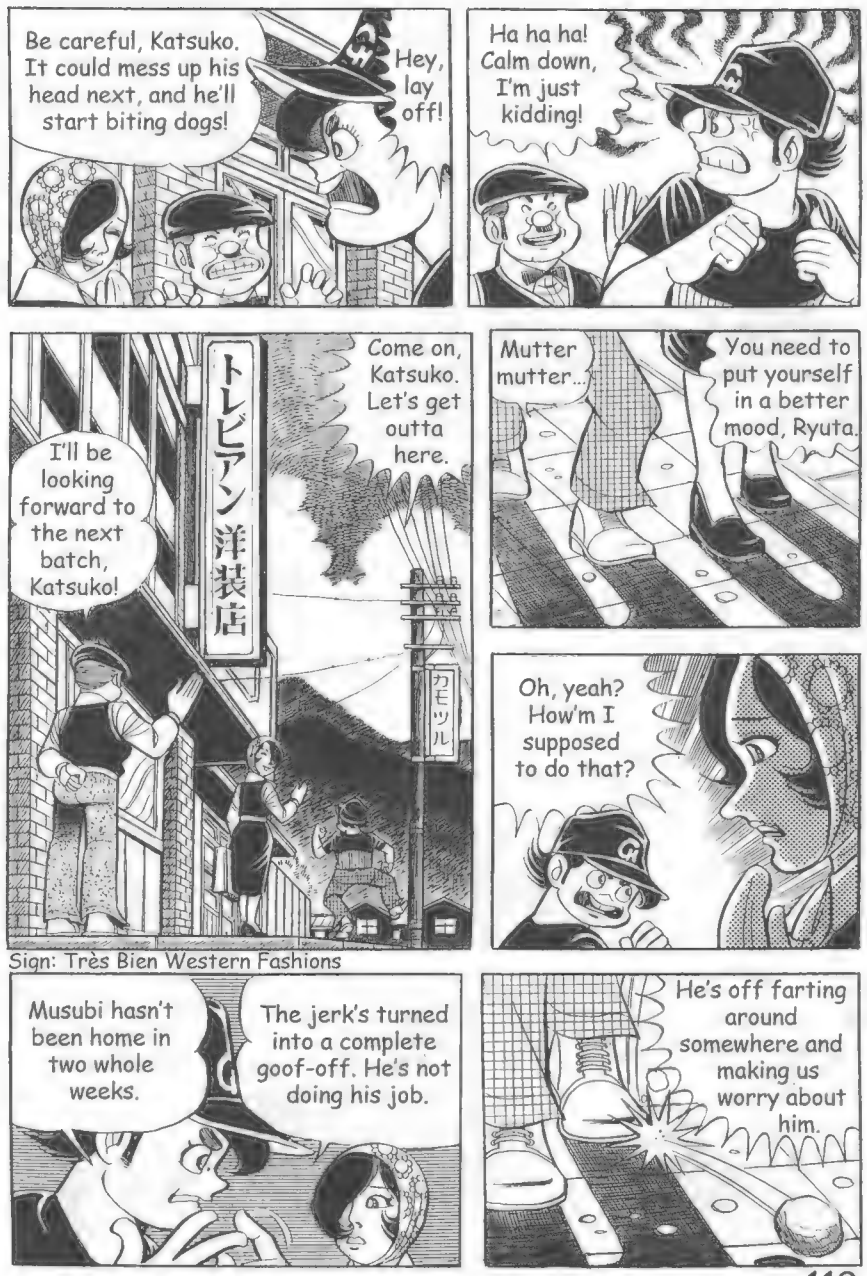

Thank you for all these wonderful pictures of me.
They made me feel so happy.
?!
SKETCH BOOK
I do hope you'll draw more of them...
Gulp...
Get a grip, Gen! She's saying she'll go out with you. Don't just stand there!
URK!
Tell her yes, you'd love to draw lots more pictures of her. Hurry up, dummy! Don't make me do it for you!
Gulp!
Th-thank you, Mitsuko.
I hope you'll let me draw lots more pictures of you.
I-I really want to draw lots and lots more, if it's all right with you!
Attaboy! That's the way! Lookin' good!
GO! GO!
Thank you. I'd like that.
Oh, man...



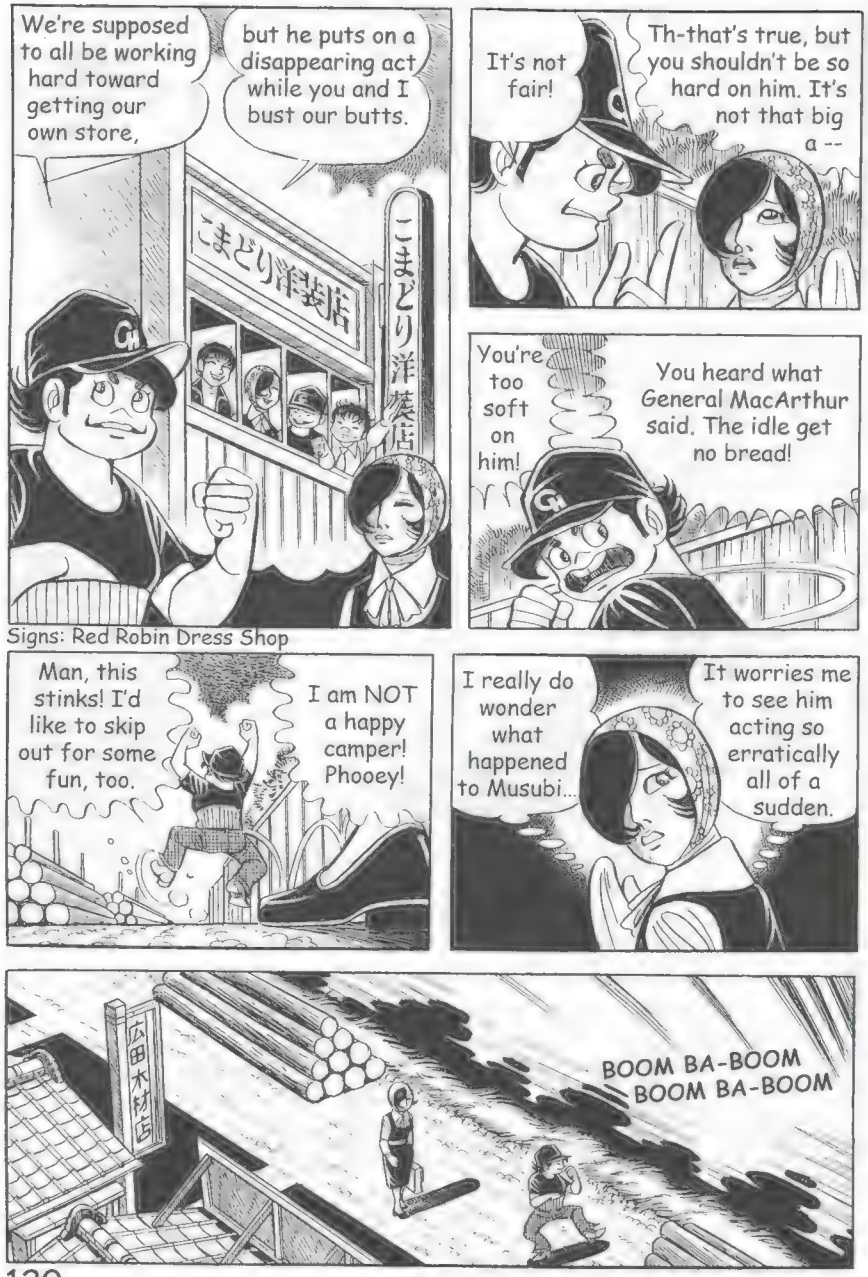


Signs: Extra! Peace in Korea! Armistice Signed! July 27, 1953
No more A-bombs! Make the Hiroshima Peace Convention a success!

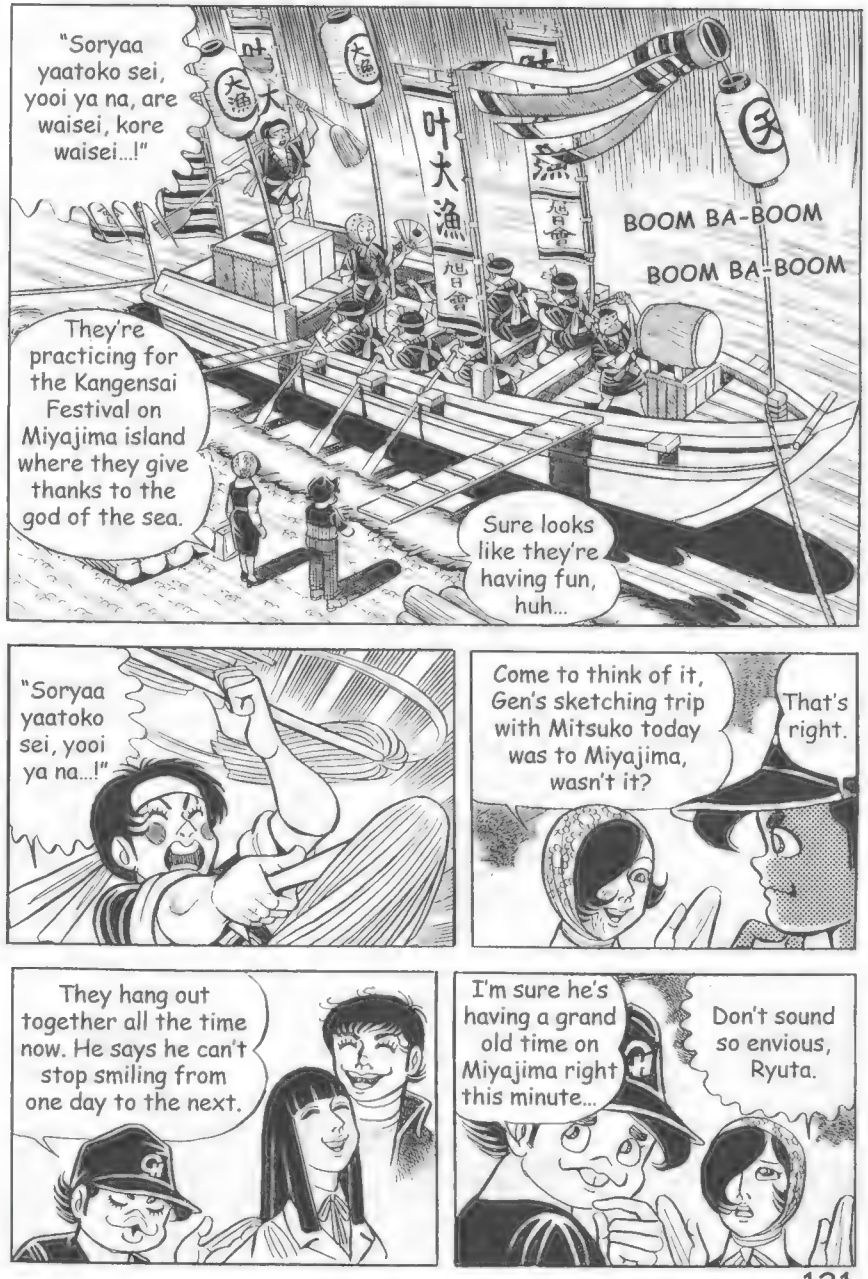




Sign: Très Bien Western Fashions



Signs: Red Robin Dress Shop




...While I just keep slaving away and never get to have any fun!
CHAK!
BONK!
Urk!
You knuckle-head! What'd you do that for?!
I'm gonna teach you a lesson!
Ai-yi-yi! Run, Katsuko!
Stop! Come back here!
No way! I'm not so dumb I'd stop just because you say so!
It was just an accident. Sorry! No hard feelings!


On Miyajima in Aki,
O divine island,
The day dawns
To the cries of deer...
Shan-shan-shan,
we come to the Ota River,
O daughters of Hiroshima
with your hearts of gold
Come dance to the strains
of the Hiroshima Ondo...
Tee hee hee!
Eh heh heh!
Ladies and gentlemen, we have here the famous Itsukushima Shrine of Miyajima, one of Japan's three most scenic views!
GOOFBALL


Ha ha ha...
Moving right along, ladies and gentlemen! Next stop, Momiji-dani Park!
Hup, hup, hup!
Ha ha ha!


This is so great to be able to draw you in person, Mitsuko!
I'm gonna do my absolute best.
Well, I'm counting on it!
Leave it to me!
I've been dragging you all over the place, Mitsuko. You must be tired.
Not at all. I'm having a great time.
Hey, look! It's the Miyajima deer!


Ooo, the fawns are so cute!
They sure are. Too bad there's so few deer left. There were a lot more before the war.
I remember when my father brought Eiko and Shinji and me to see Miyajima.
We had rashes all over our legs from malnutrition, so we swam in the sea under that big Torii gate.
Why was that?
The salt water was supposed to be good for the rash.
I see.
Boy, this really brings back memories...


One of the deer grabbed my brother's lunch right out of his hand.
The next thing we knew, Shinji yelled "Give that back!" and chomped into the culprit's neck.
Then he bawled over his lost lunch -- loud enough for the whole island to hear!
When food was scarce toward the end of the war, most of those deer got killed and eaten.
That's so cruel! It's almost like killing and eating your own pet.
Luckily, some of the deer got away into the hills, and they've been brought back here now to breed.
It's just one more thing that makes me hate war so much.
It even killed the deer on this island.


Don't worry, guys! I'll make sure you don't get slaughtered in a war ever again! So just relax and make lots of babies!
Let's be friends forever, okay?
.....
You have such a gentle heart, Gen. I really admire that.
Ha ha ha! You're embarrassing me.
When I'm with you, I know I can say exactly what I feel.
Yeah? Well, I'm glad.
When I see the way you are, I feel ashamed of my father.
He was a career soldier who made a living at war and killing people. And now he just crows about how great things were during the war. I can't stand it!


I get the creeps when he hugs me.
When I think how many people those very hands must have killed during the war, it makes me shudder.
He doesn't have the first idea how we suffered at home from the war and the atomic bomb.
He's stupid. He's just plain stupid!
Don't ever become a career soldier, Gen. They're full of self-righteous talk about protecting the nation, but all they do is start wars and kill people.
Trust me, I won't!
The world doesn't need any more wars or atomic bombs.
Th-that's for sure.
But sometimes, when I'm forcing myself to keep quiet about it, I feel like it's going to drive me out of my mind.
Why? What is it?
Actually, there's something I swore to myself I'd never tell anyone...

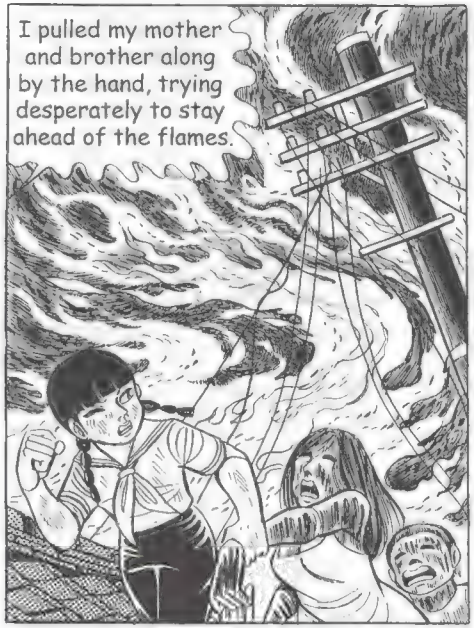

Tee hee! You have a strange power, Gen!
With you, I feel like I can talk about anything and get it off my chest.
It's because you're so open-hearted yourself.
You can tell me anything, Mitsuko, if it'll make you feel better.
I promise I'll keep it in strict confidence.
.....
Believe it or not, Gen, I'm a double murderer.
Wha-?!
I knew you'd be shocked. I'm a murdering devil!
Y-you shouldn't joke about some-thing like that!
I'm not making it up. I really did it. I killed my mother and my little brother on the day of the bomb.
Y-your mother and brother...?!
I'm not joking. It's the absolute truth. I'm a cold-blooded murderer.
E-enough already! Don't make up stuff like that!


I'm a devil. I'm a terrible person.
I killed my dear, dear mother and brother without a second thought.
Their dying cries still echo in my ears.
Sob... I can hardly bear it...
M-Mitsuko...
Sob... I was in the shelter getting something for my mother when the bomb went off, so I escaped the heat rays.
But the blast knocked me unconscious.
When I came to and clawed my way out...

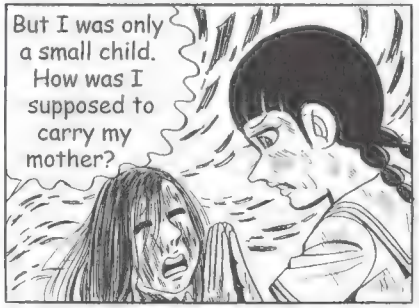

Someone who looked like a monster was screaming my name. I screamed back, "Who are you? I don't know you!"


But then I realized it was my mother, with my brother beside her.
Their skin was peeling off their bodies from the heat rays.


We ran to escape the fires swirling all around us. The flames were licking at our heels...


I pulled my mother and brother along by the hand, trying desperately to stay ahead of the flames.


But because of their burns, it was hard for them to even walk. My mother begged me to carry her on my back.

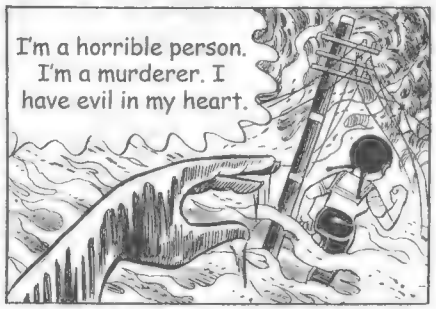

But I was only a small child. How was I supposed to carry my mother?


Still, I tried. I tried with all my strength to lift her on my back and flee.


But I just couldn't do it. I wasn't strong enough.


Some deep instinct told me that if I didn't do something, I would die in the flames with them, and I got really scared.


So I left them behind and ran.


I'm a horrible person. I'm a murderer. I have evil in my heart.


I ignored my mother and brother's cries as the flames engulfed them. I simply ran.
MITSUKO! MITSUKO! HELP!

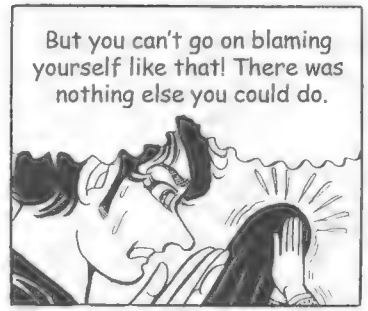

I can still hear their cries today.


They never stop.


Sob... Why didn't I try harder? I shouldn't have given up so easily! I can't stop blaming myself...
.....


I'm an evil person... evil...


No, Mitsuko, you're a good person. You're a very good person!
That's why you still can't forgive yourself.


But you can't go on blaming yourself like that! There was nothing else you could do.


Actually, I'm a murderer just like you.
Wha-?!


I left my father and sister and brother behind when I escaped the flames, too.


It hurts so much to remember that day.
Yes, it does.

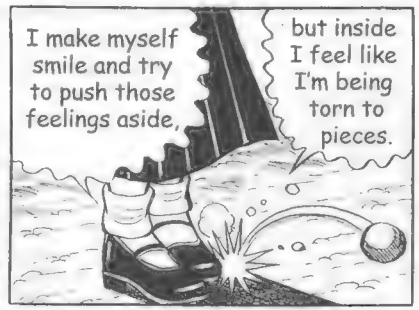

I get so angry at the people who drove us into that hell. I really hate them.

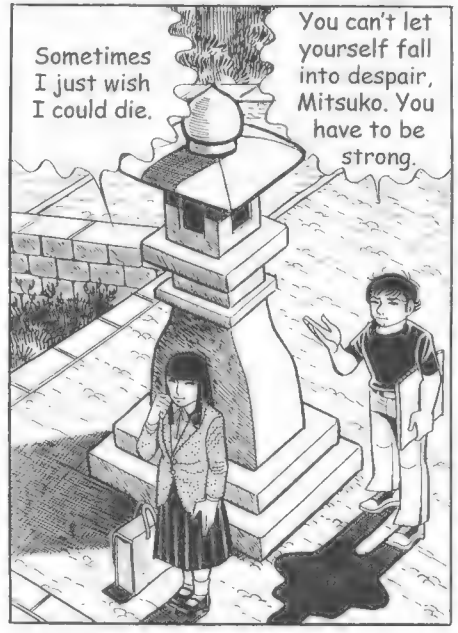

I do too.
Both the people who dropped the atomic bomb and the people who started the war.


Later, when I searched the ruins for their bones, I couldn't stop crying, "I'm sorry, Mother! I'm sorry, Satoru!"


But with so many bones everywhere, there was no way I could figure out which ones were theirs...


Every year in August, those awful memories come back to me, and I get so depressed.
Same here...


I make myself smile and try to push those feelings aside,
but inside I feel like I'm being torn to pieces.


Sometimes I just wish I could die.
You can't let yourself fall into despair, Mitsuko. You have to be strong.

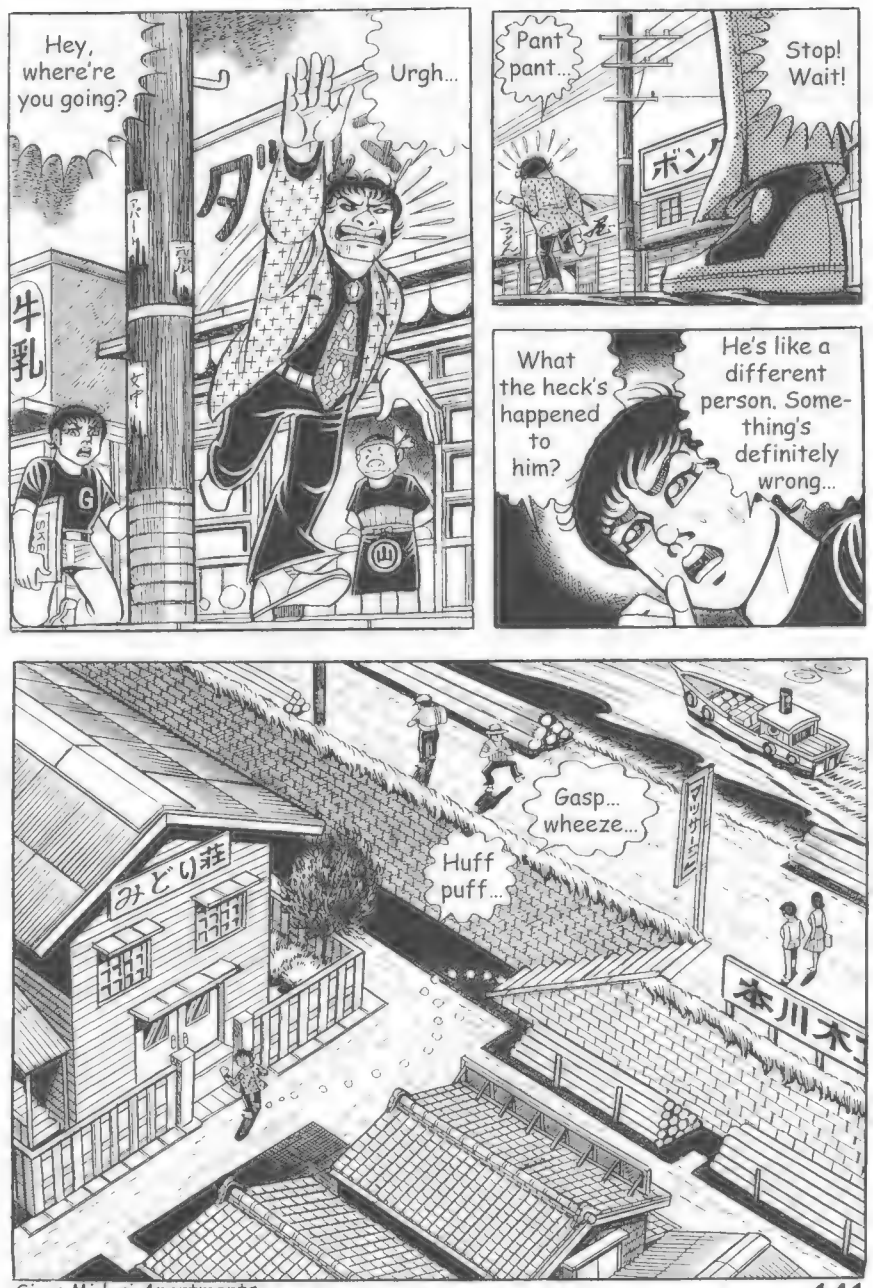

Will you help me, Gen?
Will you help me find the strength to live?


Of course I will! Whatever it takes!


Don't hesitate to ask anything at all! I'll do everything I can to help you!
Th-thank you.
Sniff... Thank you so much, Gen.


DING DING
DING DING
Bye, Gen. I had a wonderful time today! Thank you!
I had a great time, too, Mitsuko. Thank YOU!
タクシー
Wahoo! I'm so happy!
Yee-hah! Hot diggety! Banzai!
リル
Hm?
募集
男子

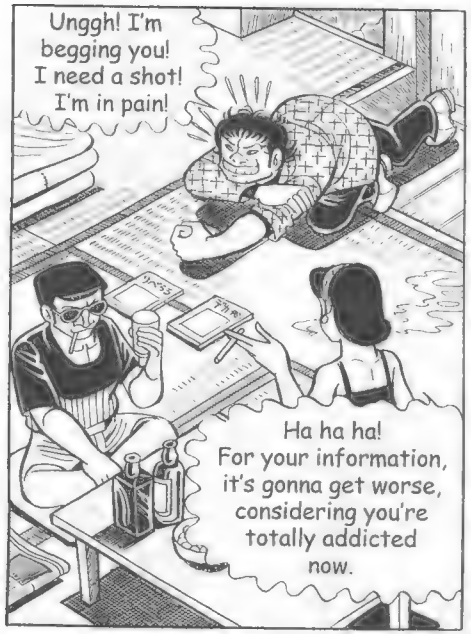


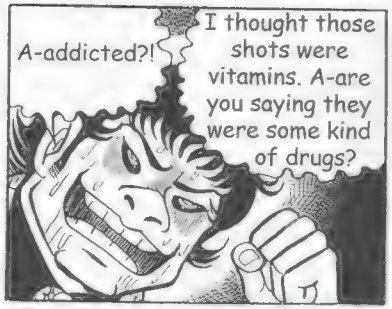


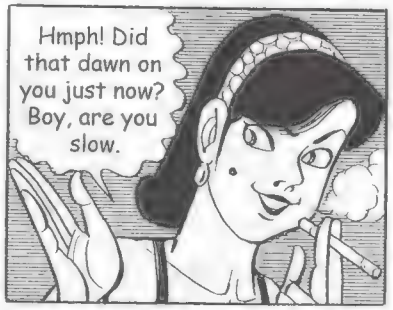
Sign: Midori Apartments

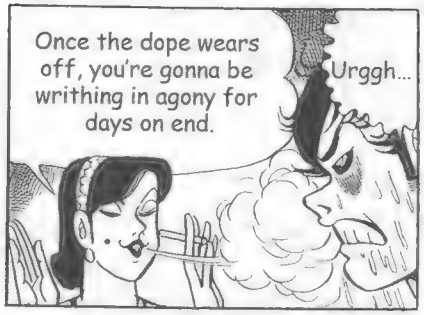

Pant pant...
STAGGER
TREMBLE
Huff puff...
5号室
大場みち
On door: Apt. 5, Michi Oba
CLATTER
Huh?
Well, well!
Gasp... wheeze... Quick, you gotta give me another shot...
SNICKER

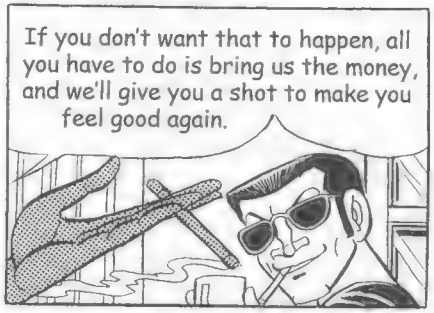

H-hurry up, will you? I need one of those energy shots...
Sure, baby. We'll give you as many shots as you want.
Just as soon as you pay up!
M-my money's gone...
I gave you every last yen I collected.
Pant pant... C'mon... You've gotta give me a shot! I-I'm really hurting!
Snort!
Who do you think you are?
You expect to get your shots for free? We're not a charity, you know.
No money means no shots. You need to get that into your thick skull!
No! Don't say that! Please!
I promise I'll bring the money later.
Look, it's cash up front only!


Unggh! I'm begging you! I need a shot! I'm in pain!
Ha ha ha! For your information, it's gonna get worse, considering you're totally addicted now.


A-addicted?!
I thought those shots were vitamins. A-are you saying they were some kind of drugs?

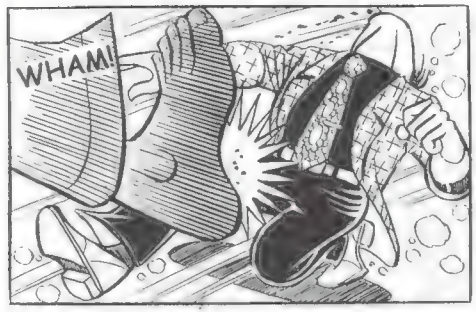

Hmph! Did that dawn on you just now? Boy, are you slow.


Once the dope wears off, you're gonna be writhing in agony for days on end.
Urggh...


If you don't want that to happen, all you have to do is bring us the money, and we'll give you a shot to make you feel good again.


Y-you bastards! I can't believe you tricked me!
Hah! We're just making a living.

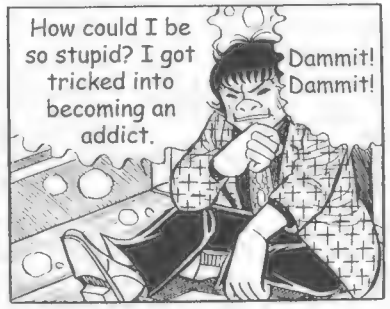

D-damn you!


WHAM!


CRASH


Not so fast, punk!
You belong to us now. You're hooked so bad, you're gonna be our little money-making robot from now on.
Groan...


And don't you forget it!
CRACK!
Unnh!

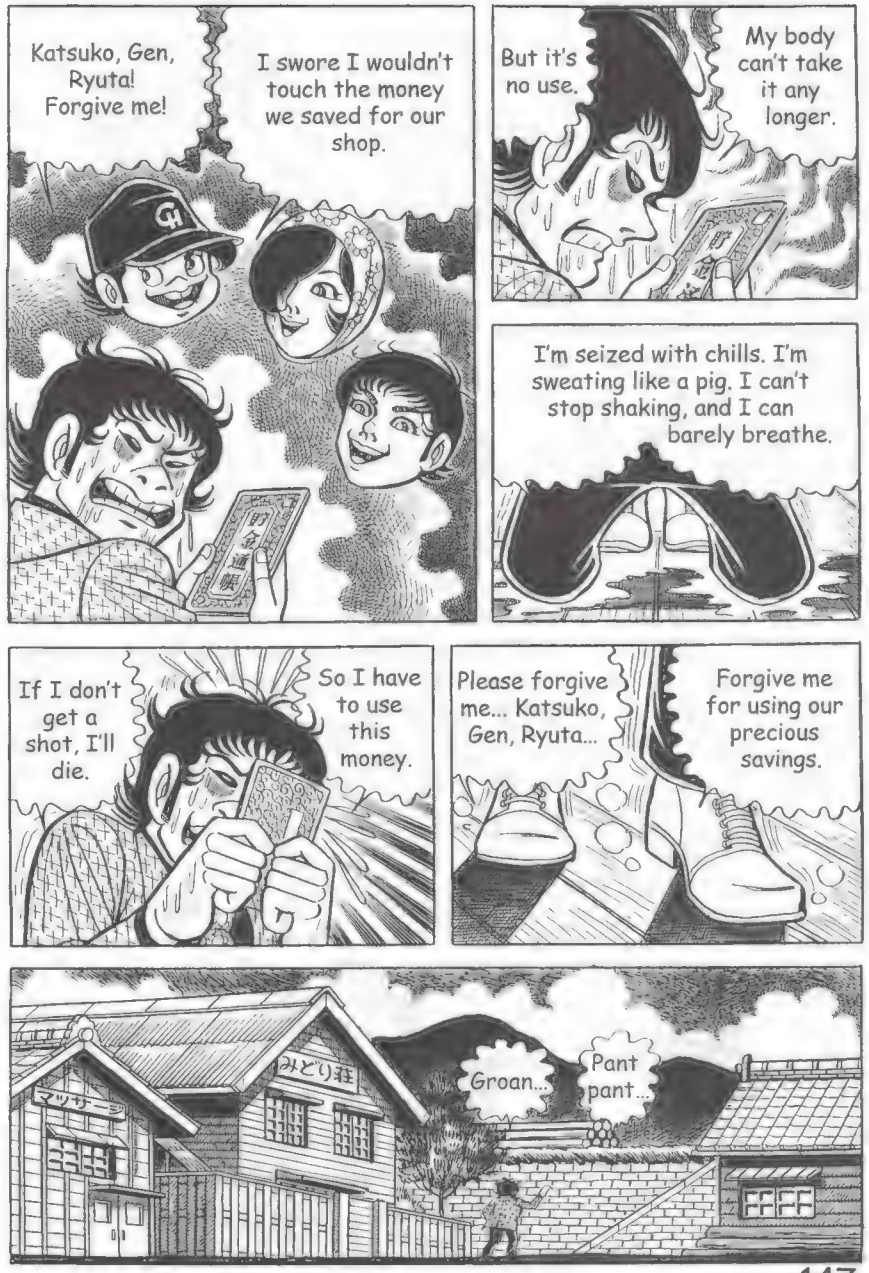

How could I be so stupid? I got tricked into becoming an addict.
Dammit! Dammit!


Groan... Please... You gotta give me a shot...
Heh heh heh.


I suggest you hurry up and get some money.
Then we'll make you feel good again.



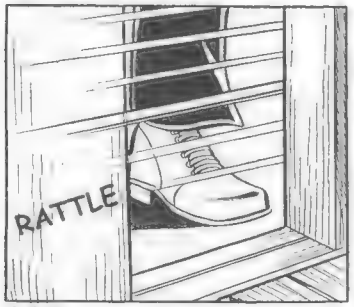
Postal Savings Passbook





Sign: Honkawa Post Office






















CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
You say Musubi looked wasted and half crazy?
That's terrible!
That dumb-ass! He's given us nothing but worry lately!
.....
.....
La la la, la la la, la la la, la la lan!
Bright young voices rise in song
As the snow fields melt awaaay...
And flowers burst into bloom...
On greeeening mouuuntains...
Early blossoming cherries
Beneath the vast blue sky
Quicken our dreams todaaay...!


Ta-dah! All hands on deck! Musubi has returned!
? ? ?
Ha ha ha! Sorry to have been gone for so long. My sincere apologies!
As a token of my remorse, I bought some saké and meat. Let's have a sukiyaki party!
Katsuko, would you cook this up for us?
What's going on, Gen? He looks perfectly healthy.
.....
C'mon, guys, let's drink up!


I made some great new friends and wound up staying with them for a while.
But I'll get back to work first thing tomorrow, so no hard feelings, okay?
HA HA HA HA
.....
What's with all the weird looks? Have I got something on my face?
Y-you sure you're okay, Musubi? You're not sick or anything?
What kind of question is that? I'm fit as a horse!
Why do you ask?
N-no special reason.
I'm so glad you're back, Musubi. Now that we're all together, it'll be like it was before!
Don't you go disappearing on us again, now! We were really worried about you.
I won't, I won't!

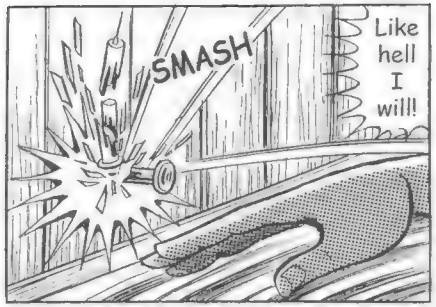

This calls for a celebration, to welcome Musubi back!
Yeah! Let's whoop it up!
When it comes to eating and drinking and partying, just leave it to yours truly!
HUP!
HUP!
You have no idea how worried we were, Musubi. It hasn't been the same around here without you.
Yeah... Sorry.
Awright! Let's have a toast!
Cheers!
When you visit Izumo
Bring back a souvenir
That won't burst your luggage --
The Yasuki-bushi song!
♪ Hey ho, hey ho... ♪
Ha ha ha!
Okay, here goes!
Bravo!


CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
Zzzzzz
Pant
pant...


Pant
pant...
Pant
pant...
What the hell are you doing, Musubi?!
URK!
I-I just thought I'd give myself a vitamin boost.
Don't lie to me. I don't believe for a minute that's just vitamins!
I knew from when I saw you on the street that something wasn't normal with you.
I'm betting what you've got there is Philopon, or maybe even heroin!
.....


D-don't be ridiculous! It's just vitamins!
That's a lie!
What're you guys yelling about in the middle of the night?
Come clean, Musubi!
Do you have any idea what drugs like that can do to you?
You guys laughed when I didn't know about Philopon a while back, so I went to the library and studied up on drugs.
Drugs totally mess you up.
They drive you crazy and eat away at your body and kill you.
And they don't just kill people. They kill whole countries. The Opium Wars in China are the perfect example.


It was back in the 1840s. To turn China into their colony, the British flooded the country with opium.
Opium comes from the poppy plant. It's what they make heroin from.
Millions of Chinese became addicted to opium and lost all desire to work. Pretty soon the Chinese economy was in ruins.
Huge amounts of silver flowed overseas to pay for the opium. That dealt a death blow to China's financial system.
The Chinese tried to stop the opium trade, but the British went to war to force them to continue letting opium into the country.
That's how scary drugs are. How could you have let yourself get hooked on them?
Don't be an idiot!
You're never gonna touch this stuff again!
Hey, give that back!


SMASH
Like hell I will!


Nooo!!


Y-you bastard! How dare you!


You're gonna pay for this!

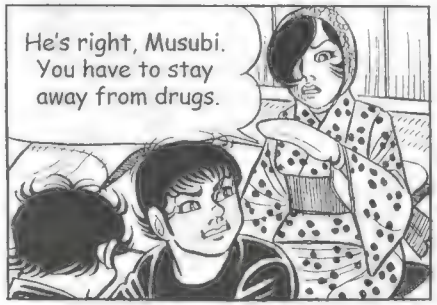

BAM!
Shad-dup!


THUNK

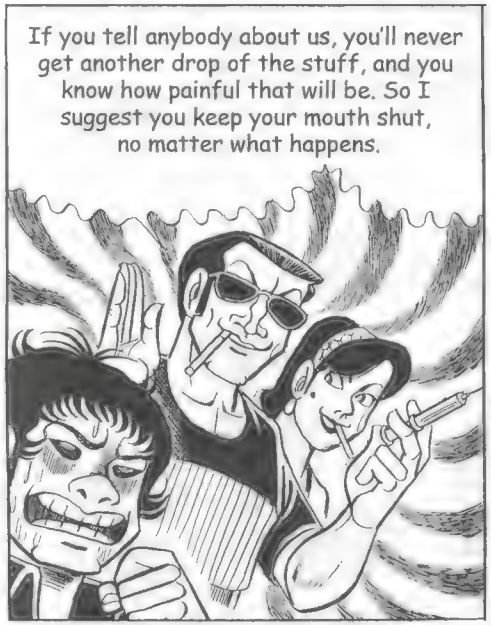

Urggh...


Musubi! Promise me you'll never touch drugs again!


You can't throw your life away like that.
You've got to treat yourself with more respect! Understand?


He's right, Musubi. You have to stay away from drugs.


Tell us who did this! Who got you hooked?
Spill it! I'll beat the scumbag to a pulp!


If you tell anybody about us, you'll never get another drop of the stuff, and you know how painful that will be. So I suggest you keep your mouth shut, no matter what happens.

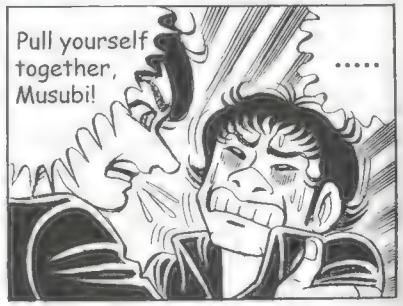

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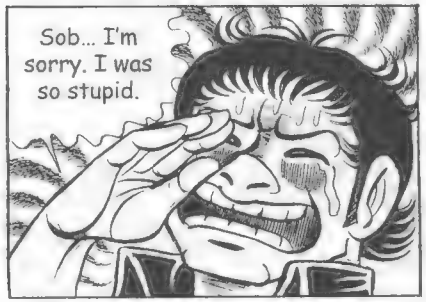

Come on, Musubi! Out with it!

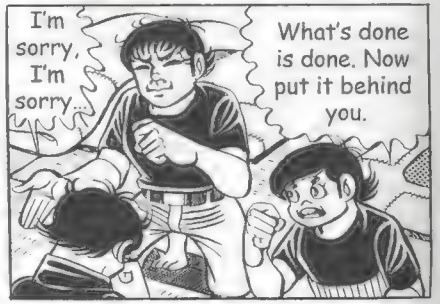

I'm asking 'cuz you're my friend and I care about you!
We made it through the hard times after the bomb together. You're like a brother to me!
Same here!


We're not gonna let this damn drug kill one of our own!
That's right!


We're not gonna sit by when someone we care about is caught in a trap like this.


Pull yourself together, Musubi!
.....

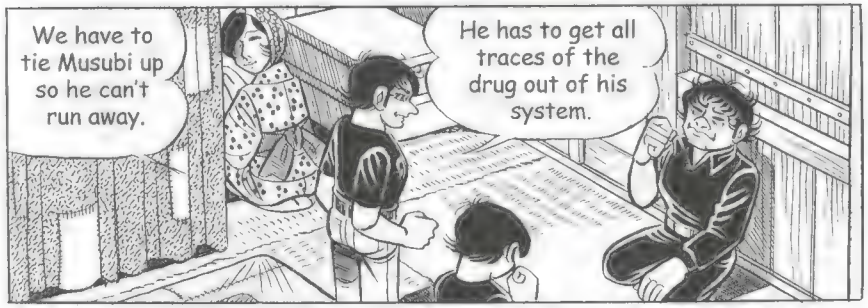

Sob... I'm sorry. I was so stupid.

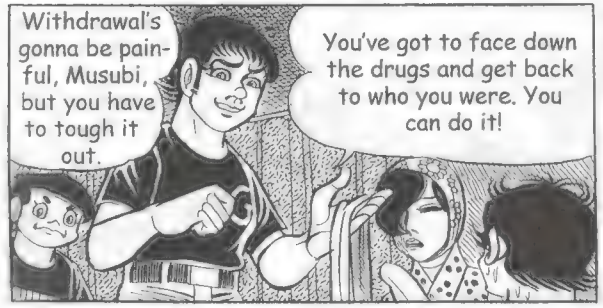

I'm sorry, I'm sorry.
What's done is done. Now put it behind you.


You've gotta get clean, Musubi. You've gotta kick the habit, now!
Swear to me you'll never shoot up again, no matter how bad it hurts.


Right! You've gotta fight!


Katsuko, go find some rope.
What for?


We have to tie Musubi up so he can't run away.
He has to get all traces of the drug out of his system.


Withdrawal's gonna be painful, Musubi, but you have to tough it out.
You've got to face down the drugs and get back to who you were. You can do it!

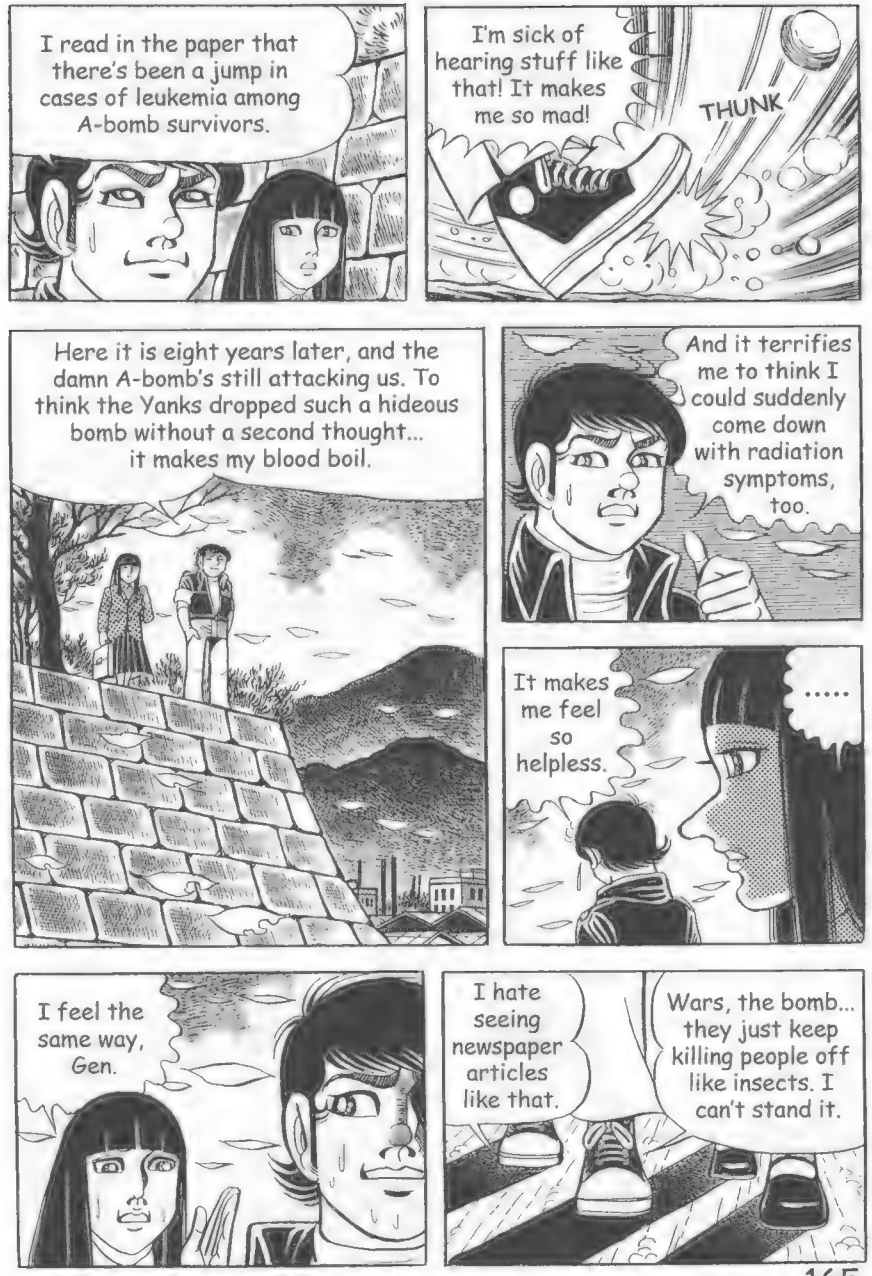

Gulp...

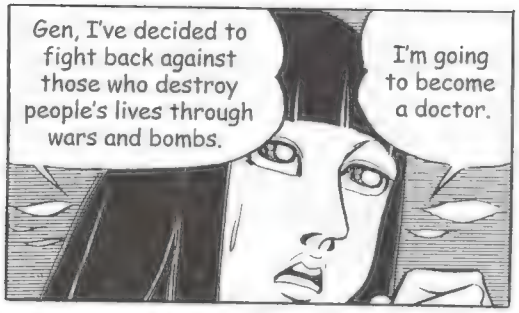




Headline: New Dark Cloud Over A-Bomb Survivors
According to the Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Casualty Council, there has been a sharp rise in the incidence of leukemia among atomic bomb survivors.


CRUNCH
CRUMPLE
Damn it all!
WHACK
CRUNCH CRUNCH
Son of a bitch...
STOMP!
Sorry I'm late!
My goodness, Gen, what are you looking so angry about?
Is it because I'm late?
No, no, it's not that!


I read in the paper that there's been a jump in cases of leukemia among A-bomb survivors.
I'm sick of hearing stuff like that! It makes me so mad!
THUNK
Here it is eight years later, and the damn A-bomb's still attacking us. To think the Yanks dropped such a hideous bomb without a second thought... it makes my blood boil.
And it terrifies me to think I could suddenly come down with radiation symptoms, too.
It makes me feel so helpless.
.....
I feel the same way, Gen.
I hate seeing newspaper articles like that.
Wars, the bomb... they just keep killing people off like insects. I can't stand it.





















Posters: March Against the Soviet H-Bomb Test; Support Pope Pius XII's Proposal to Ban Nuclear Weapons
Ad: Television Broadcasts Begin! Sharp TV2, only ¥155,000!



Restaurant: Satchan's Stuffed Griddle Cakes

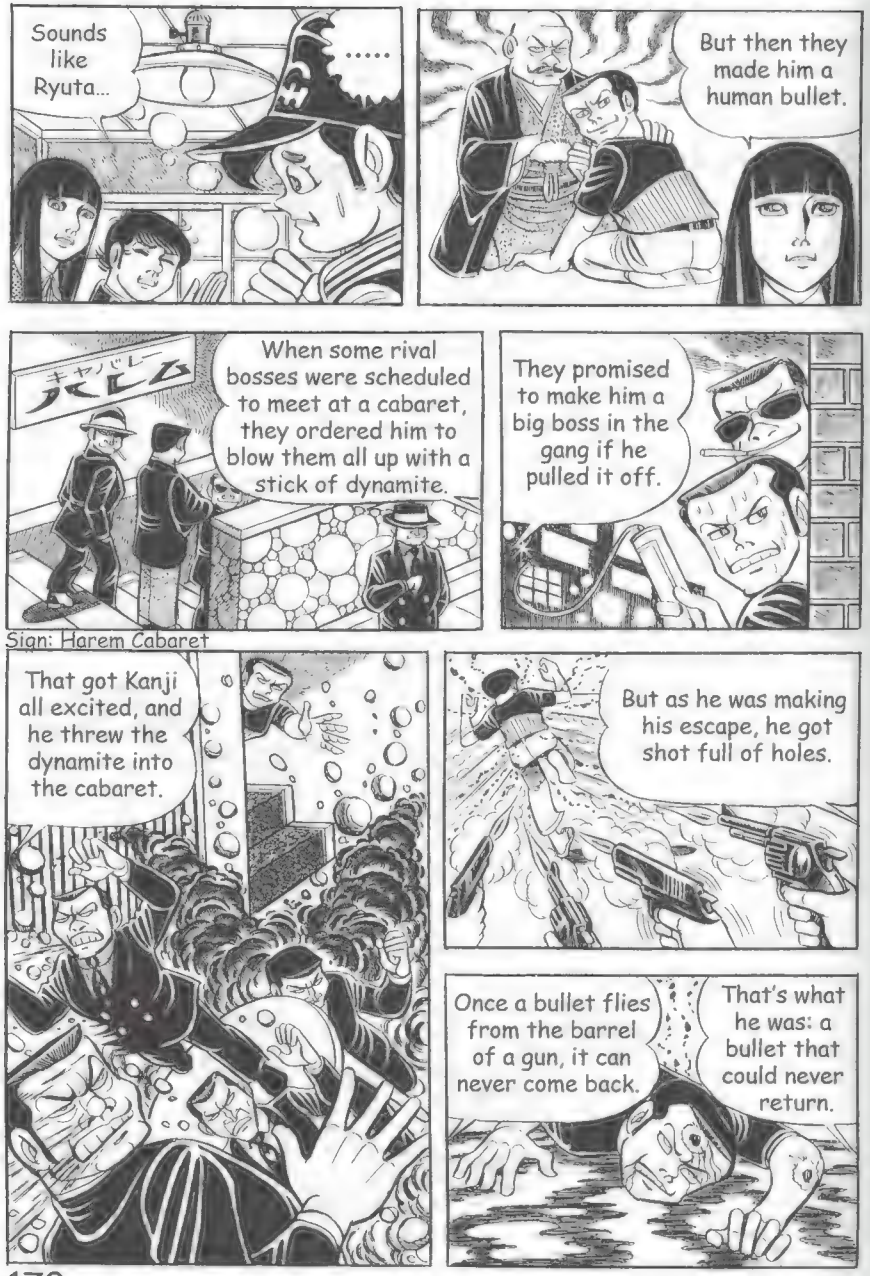


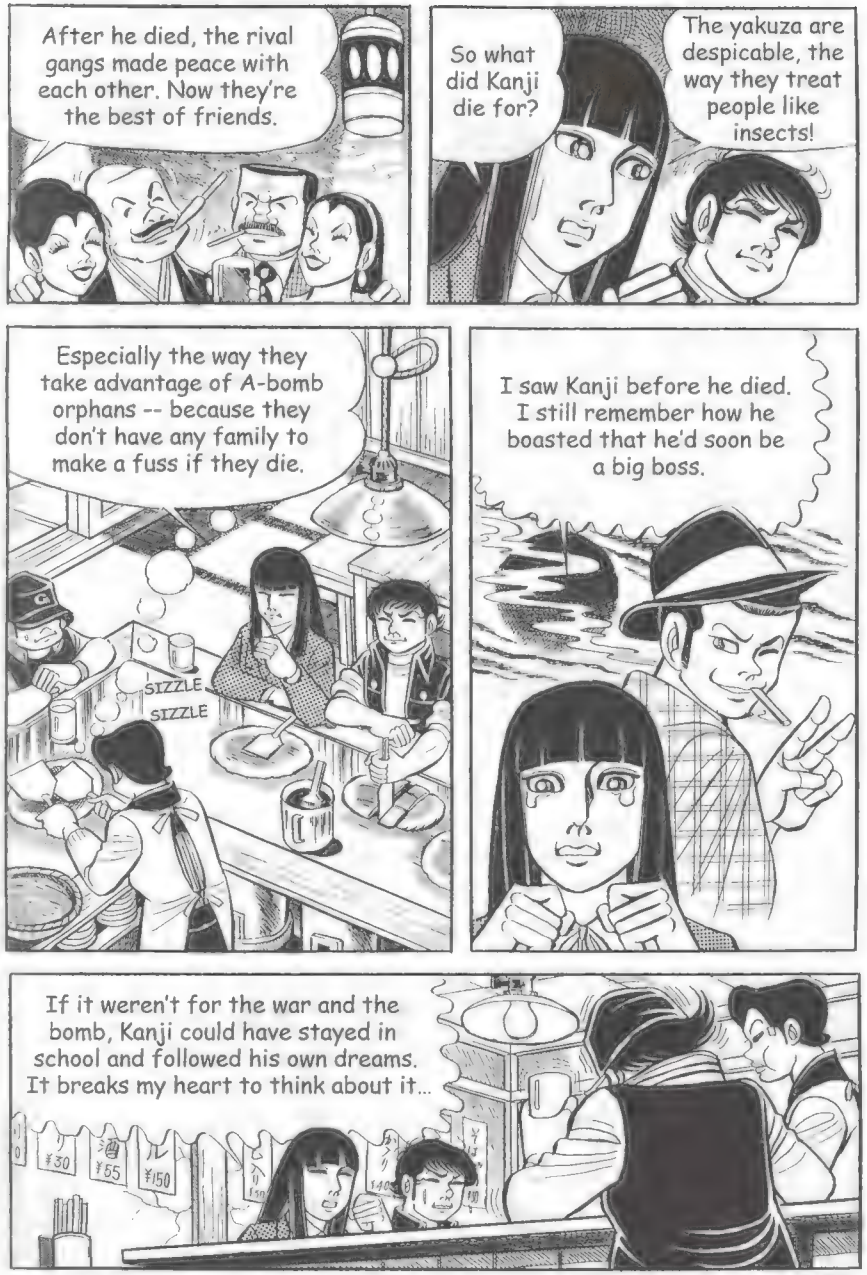




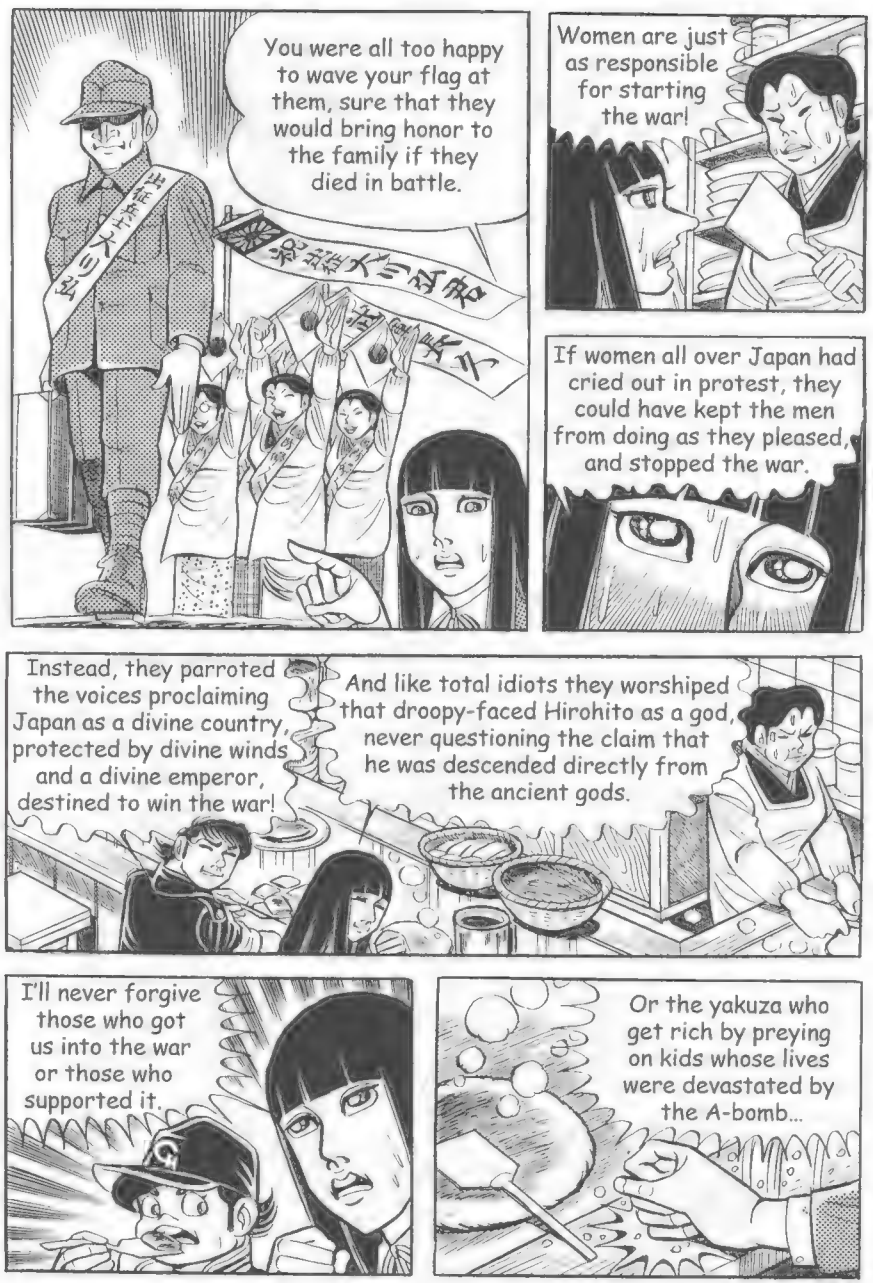


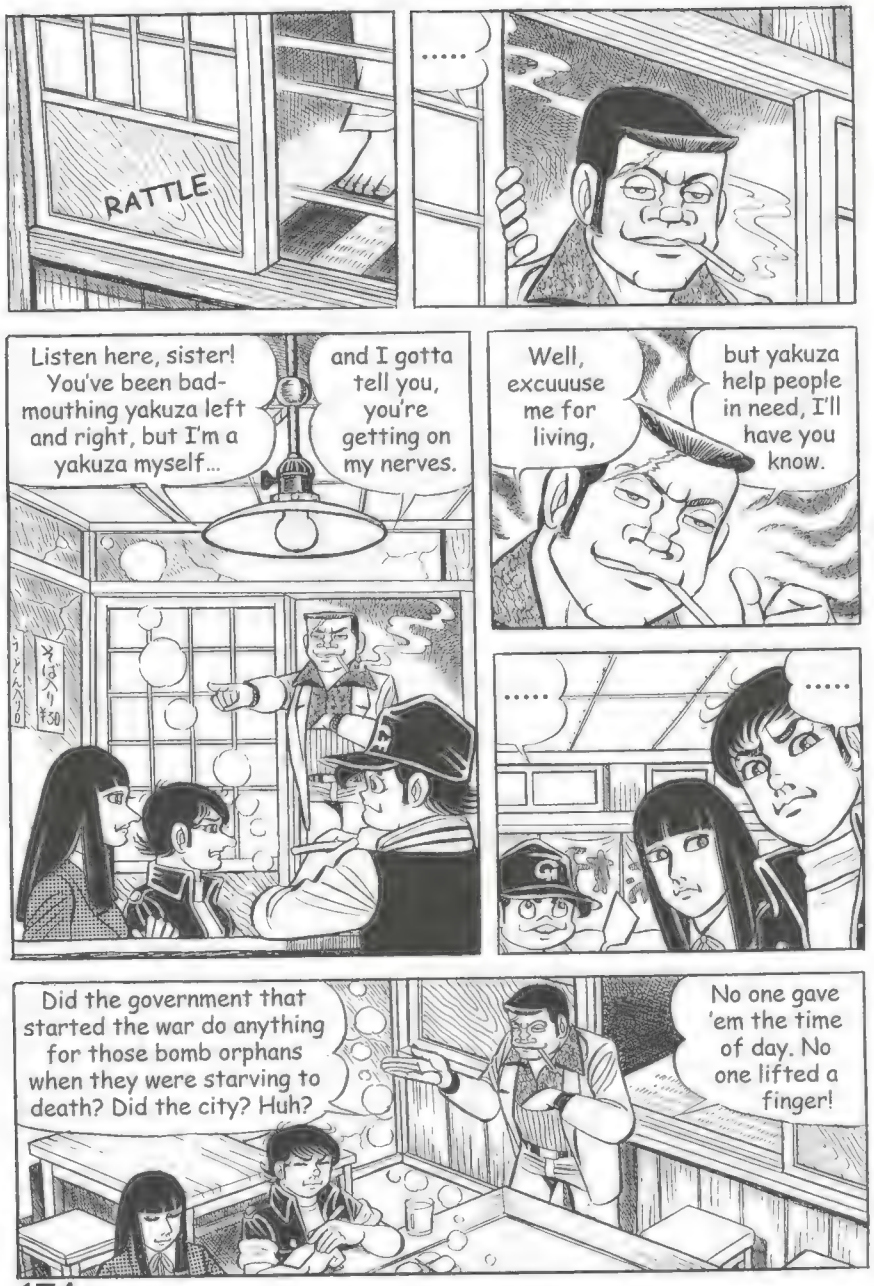
Barrel: Donations -- Support the Carp


Sounds like Ryuta...
.....
But then they made him a human bullet.
キャバレー ハレム
When some rival bosses were scheduled to meet at a cabaret, they ordered him to blow them all up with a stick of dynamite.
They promised to make him a big boss in the gang if he pulled it off.
Sign: Harem Cabaret
That got Kanji all excited, and he threw the dynamite into the cabaret.
But as he was making his escape, he got shot full of holes.
Once a bullet flies from the barrel of a gun, it can never come back.
That's what he was: a bullet that could never return.


After he died, the rival gangs made peace with each other. Now they're the best of friends.
So what did Kanji die for?
The yakuza are despicable, the way they treat people like insects!
Especially the way they take advantage of A-bomb orphans -- because they don't have any family to make a fuss if they die.
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
I saw Kanji before he died. I still remember how he boasted that he'd soon be a big boss.
If it weren't for the war and the bomb, Kanji could have stayed in school and followed his own dreams. It breaks my heart to think about it...
¥30
¥55
¥150


It's so true, what you say about the war and the bomb bringing nothing but grief. I lost five of my loved ones too.
SIZZLE SIZZLE
Men run off to fight their stupid wars, and it's always us women who are left crying in the end.
If it weren't for the war, we wouldn't have had the A-bomb.
I blame it all on the men!
SIZZLE SIZZLE
Women are to blame, too!
Lots of women helped beat the drums of war, and I bet you were one of them! Don't try to play the helpless victim!
What? How dare you?!
Didn't you join the Women's National Defense League or the Patriotic Women's Association?
Didn't you tell your husband or son to die bravely for the emperor, as you sent them off to the front?


You were all too happy to wave your flag at them, sure that they would bring honor to the family if they died in battle.
Women are just as responsible for starting the war!
If women all over Japan had cried out in protest, they could have kept the men from doing as they pleased, and stopped the war.
Instead, they parroted the voices proclaiming Japan as a divine country, protected by divine winds and a divine emperor, destined to win the war!
And like total idiots they worshiped that droopy-faced Hirohito as a god, never questioning the claim that he was descended directly from the ancient gods.
I'll never forgive those who got us into the war or those who supported it.
Or the yakuza who get rich by preying on kids whose lives were devastated by the A-bomb...

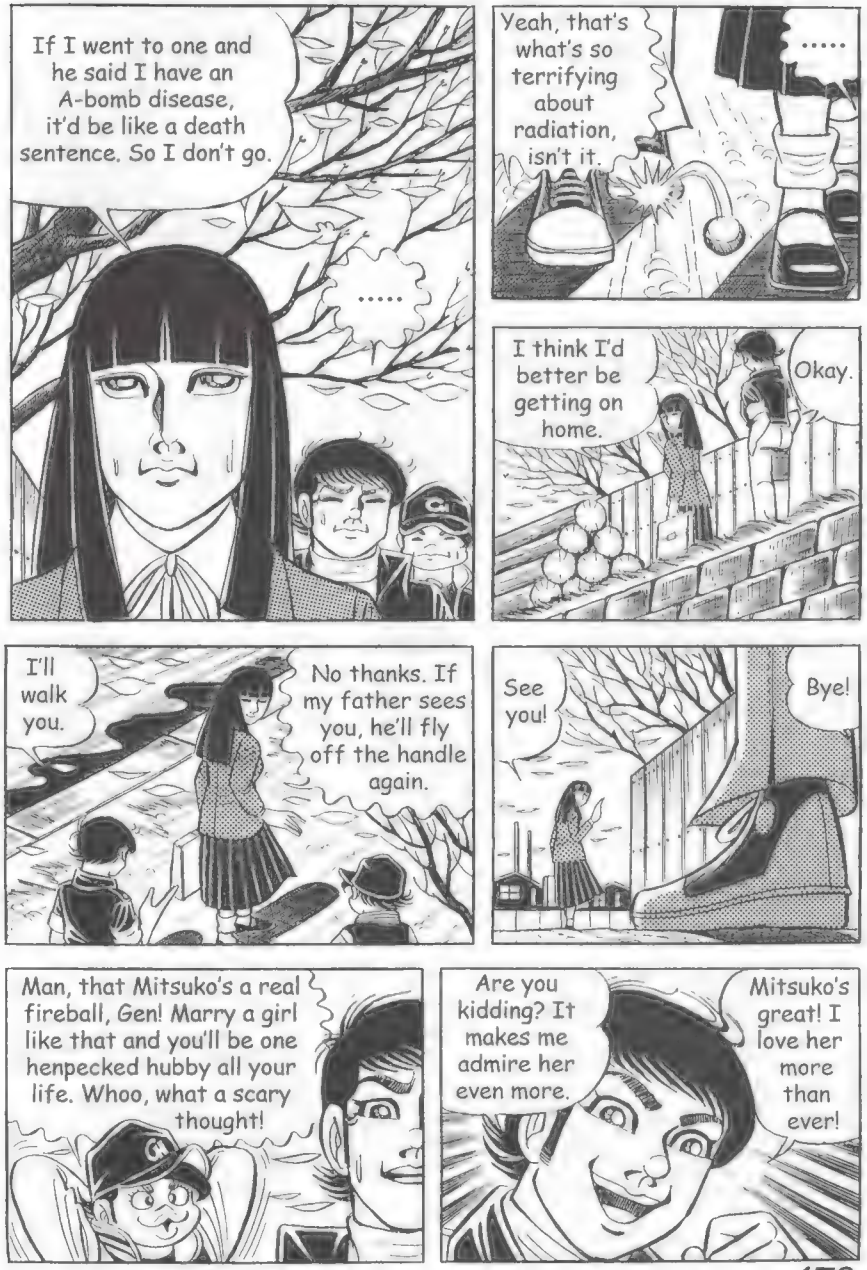

RATTLE
.....
Listen here, sister! You've been bad-mouthing yakuza left and right, but I'm a yakuza myself...
and I gotta tell you, you're getting on my nerves.
Well, excuuuse me for living,
but yakuza help people in need, I'll have you know.
.....
.....
Did the government that started the war do anything for those bomb orphans when they were starving to death? Did the city? Huh?
No one gave 'em the time of day. No one lifted a finger!

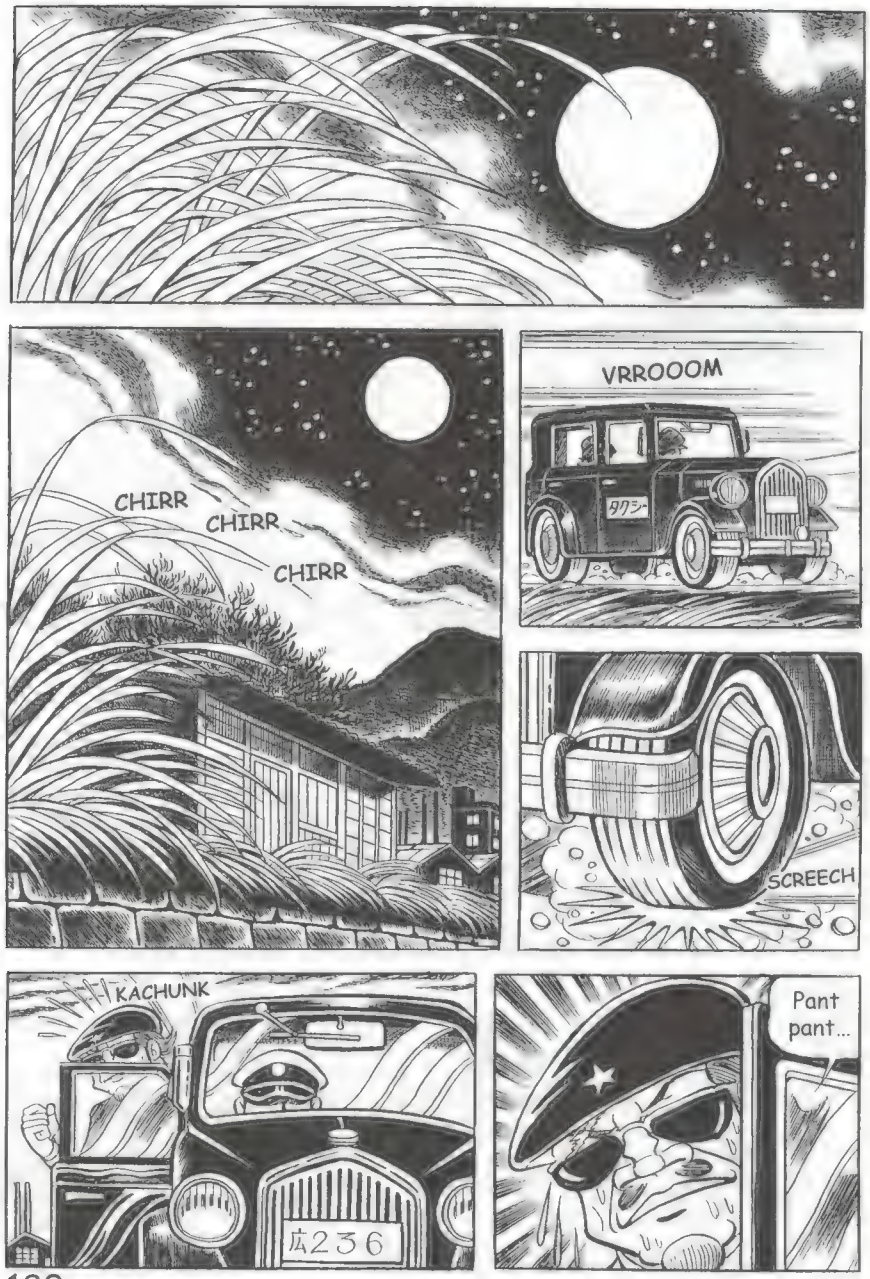

So who stepped in to feed all those starving orphans? The yakuza! We knew what was right, and don't you forget it!
You only fed them so you could feed off them. Stop trying to put a pretty face on it.
You better watch it, sister!
Now, now, sir. Please don't make trouble. You won't gain anything by picking a fight with a little girl.
.....
Wow, Gen, Mitsuko's really got a mind of her own, doesn't she!
Hmph. I don't trust people who claim to be acting for a higher cause.
SIZZLE SIZZLE
Everybody hates you yakuza, don't you know? Stop throwing your weight around like you own the world!
Th-that does it!!


I'll teach you a lesson!
WHAP!
AAIEEE!!
Ai-yi-yi-yi, I'm burning!!
Water, gimme some water!!
I think we better skedaddle, Gen. Yakuza tend to hold a grudge, so things could get messy later.
R-right.
SPLASH SPLASH


Come on, Mitsuko. Let's get out of here.
I detest people who feather their own beds by doing bad things.
I know how you feel. But you can't win by quarreling with fools.
TROMP TROMP
Come back here, you punks!
Ha ha ha! Serves you right, Mister Yakuza! You underestimated who you were tangling with. Let it be a lesson!
Losers like you never get very far. You'd be better off dropping out of the yakuza racket!
Grrr! I won't forget this!
Hee! I won't either! I'll remember you as the biggest idiot I ever saw! Yah ha ha ha!


Wow, that was really something!
I didn't know you could be so tough, Mitsuko. I'm impressed!
Urgh...
Groan!
Wh-what's wrong, Mitsuko?
Unnhh... It's nothing. I'll be fine.
A-are you sure?
It's been happening a lot lately. I feel like I'm going to throw up sometimes.
That doesn't sound good. Have you been to a doctor?
Gen, I'm sure you can understand why someone who lived through the A-bomb might not feel like seeing a doctor.


If I went to one and he said I have an A-bomb disease, it'd be like a death sentence. So I don't go.
.....
Yeah, that's what's so terrifying about radiation, isn't it.
.....
I think I'd better be getting on home.
Okay.
I'll walk you.
No thanks. If my father sees you, he'll fly off the handle again.
See you!
Bye!
Man, that Mitsuko's a real fireball, Gen! Marry a girl like that and you'll be one henpecked hubby all your life. Whoo, what a scary thought!
Are you kidding? It makes me admire her even more.
Mitsuko's great! I love her more than ever!


CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
VRROOOM
SCREECH
KACHUNK
広236
Pant pant...


TROMP TROMP
BAM BAM BAM
BAM BAM BAM
Sheesh, it's the middle of the night! Who could it be?
BAM! BAM! BAM!
BAM! BAM! BAM!
Whaddaya want? We don't have anything worth stealing so it's not locked! Just open it!
CLICK
Wha-?!
Pant pant...


Gen, you've got to come with me! Right now!
What?!
You know this guy, Gen?
He's Mitsuko's father.
So this is the guy who treated you so bad at the signboard company?
Pant pant...
What do you need me for?
Just shut up and come with me!
Whoa, whoa! What kinda talk is that?
Who do you think you are, anyway?
S-sorry.
Please, Gen. I need you to come with me right now.
Why? What happened?
It's Mitsuko. She's... she's...


What? Has something happened to her?
Sob...
She's... she's... dying!
She keeps calling for you!
What?!
N-no way! No way can she be dying!
Don't be ridiculous. Is this some kind of sick joke?
Yeah! Just this evening she was going toe to toe with a yakuza!
No, it's true! Please hurry! Come with me. We don't have a minute to lose!
Mitsuko's dying...?!
I don't believe it!
It can't be!
TROMP TROMP TROMP
VRROOOM

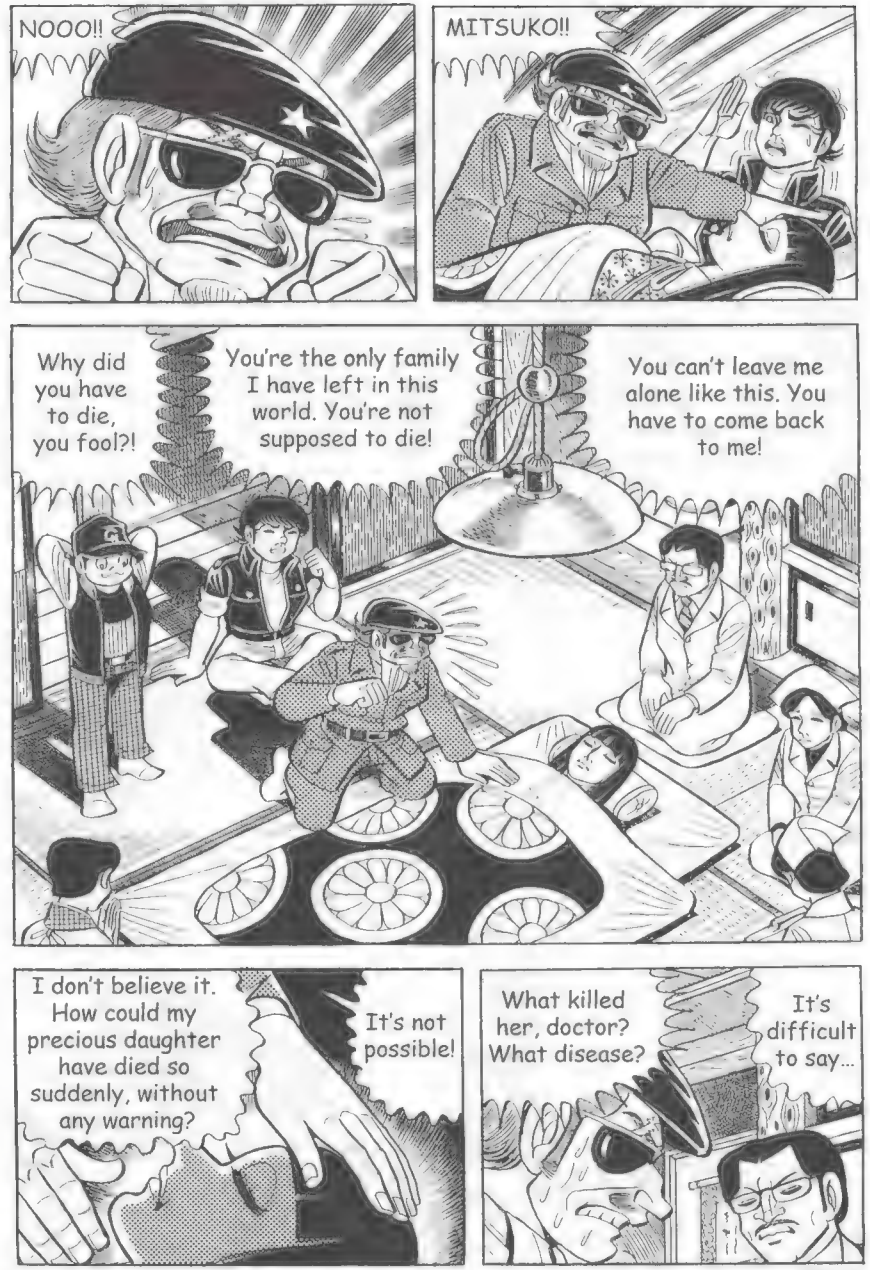

SCREECH
TROMP TROMP
Gen's here, Mitsuko! Don't die!
Pant pant...
TROMP TROMP
CLATTER
Gulp!
Gasp!


.....
Nooo...
We did everything we could, but she passed away at 3:03 a.m. I'm sorry.
Gasp...
NO!!!

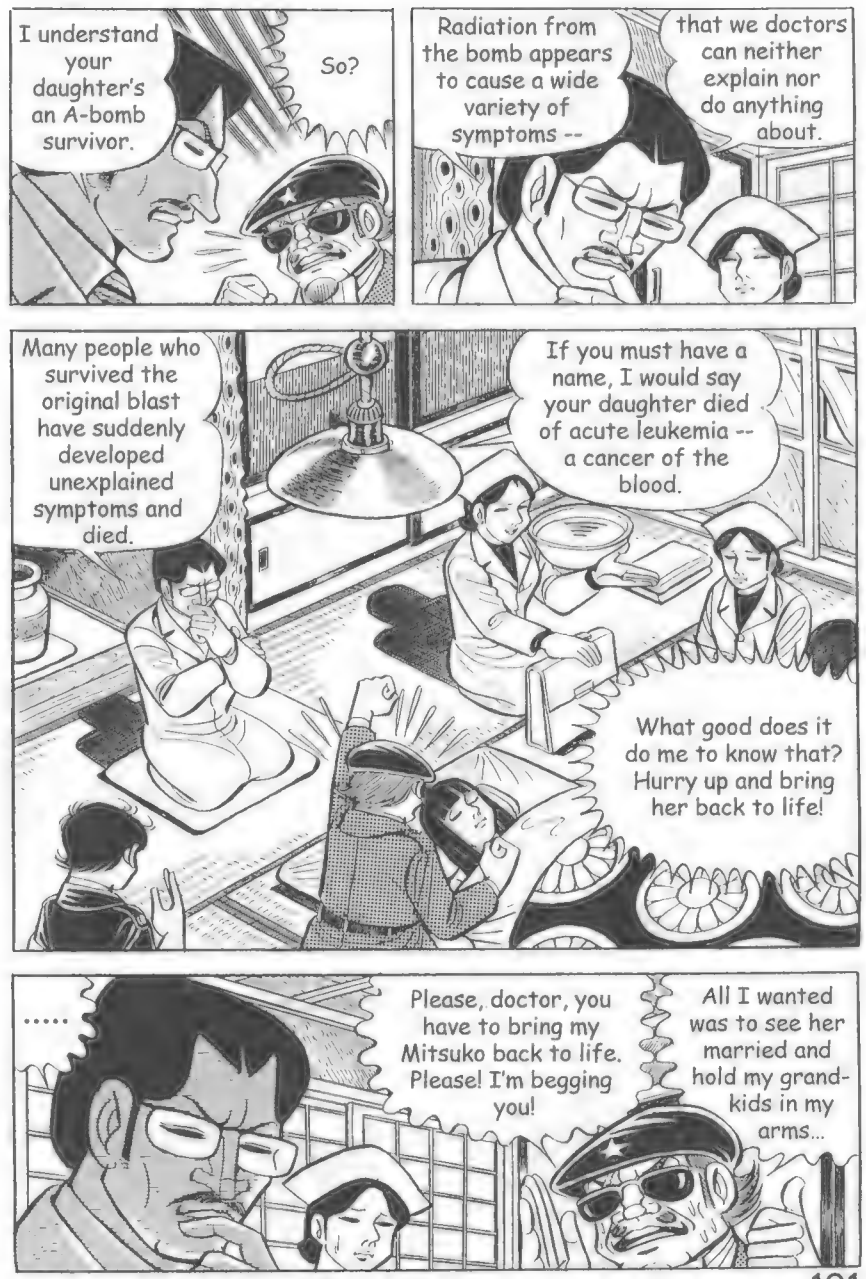

Sh-she's dead...?
M-Mitsuko's dead...?!
Sob...
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
L-like hell! You idiots must be trying to pull my leg!
Come on! Stop your lousy play-acting!


Ha ha ha! You can stop faking, Mitsuko! Open your eyes!
You shouldn't tease me like this. If you carry it too far, I'm gonna be pissed!
Come on! Sit up and smile at me!
What're you waiting for? Hurry up and open your eyes. Sit up!
Come on, Mitsuko, sit up!


Gasp! Her whole body is cold. She's cold as ice!
Quick! Bring a foot warmer!
Sh-she's not breathing.
H-her heart's not beating!
It's not beating!!
No way! No way! It can't be true!
I understand how hard it is for you to accept this, but death is one thing that simply can't be denied.
.....


NOOO!!
MITSUKO!!
Why did you have to die, you fool?!
You're the only family I have left in this world. You're not supposed to die!
You can't leave me alone like this. You have to come back to me!
I don't believe it. How could my precious daughter have died so suddenly, without any warning?
It's not possible!
What killed her, doctor? What disease?
It's difficult to say...


Mitsuko was in the bath this evening, when she suddenly started spitting up blood and collapsed.
There was so much blood, and it just kept coming.
Nothing we did would stop it.
I asked my neighbor to watch her while I went to get you.
Everybody says you're the best doctor around.
But now Mitsuko is dead, and you can't even tell me why? You can't name the disease?
What kind of doctor are you?!
Now, now, take it easy, sir.

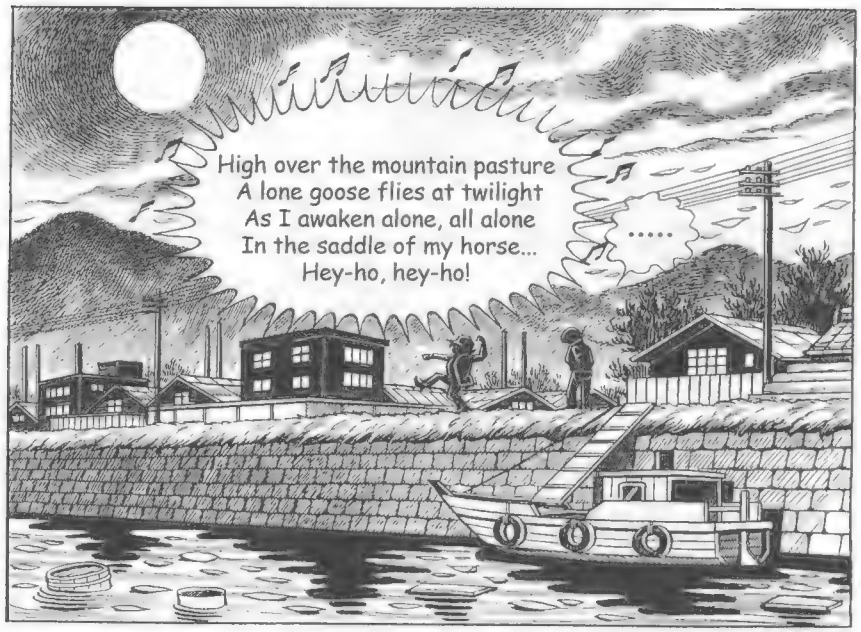

I understand your daughter's an A-bomb survivor.
So?
Radiation from the bomb appears to cause a wide variety of symptoms --
that we doctors can neither explain nor do anything about.
Many people who survived the original blast have suddenly developed unexplained symptoms and died.
If you must have a name, I would say your daughter died of acute leukemia -- a cancer of the blood.
What good does it do me to know that? Hurry up and bring her back to life!
.....
Please, doctor, you have to bring my Mitsuko back to life. Please! I'm begging you!
All I wanted was to see her married and hold my grandkids in my arms...


Is there nothing you can do, doctor?!
.....
Damn it, Mitsuko! Don't you know you're out of order?
It's the old who are supposed to die first! You're still young. You're not supposed to die before me!
Sob...
Sob... Mitsuko... Mitsuko...
Gen, you little punk!
This is all your fault. It was the emotional stress of your advances that killed her! I could tell she was troubled about something. It had me worried.
She died because you pushed her too hard. That's got to be it!


You're out of your mind, you doddering old fool! Don't you know Mitsuko was happiest when she was with Gen? You should be grateful to him, not picking fights with him!
Shut up! It's all your fault, Gen!
The reason Mitsuko was calling for you...
was to curse you for what you did to her. I'm sure of it!
He's off his rocker, Gen. You can't talk sense to him.
Come on. Let's just go.
Not so fast, you little rat!
I'll make you pay for what you did to my precious Mitsuko!
Take this!

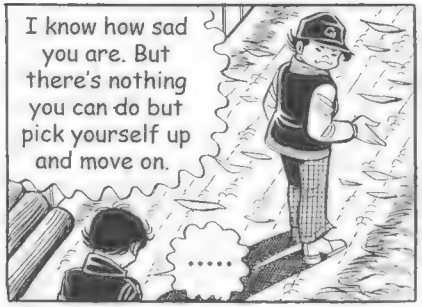

POW!
THUD
Unnh...
I've had all I'm gonna take from you!
You're always glorifying the war,
and babbling nonsense about how a lousy A-bomb or two wasn't enough to defeat Japan.
Well, now you know how terrible the A-bomb is! Now you can see what it does!
Eight whole years after the bomb fell, it suddenly reaches out to claim your precious daughter's life.


And it's all because warmongers like you just had to go to war. That's what led to the A-bomb!
People like you are too stupid to see the cruelty of war and the bomb until the suffering hits you directly.
I'd better not ever see you swaggering around and glorifying war after this.
I hope you've learned your lesson from your daughter's death, you stinking old geezer.
Damn you! Damn you!
DAMN YOU, YOU SHIT-HEAD!
Gen!


High over the mountain pasture
A lone goose flies at twilight
As I awaken alone, all alone
In the saddle of my horse...
Hey-ho, hey-ho!
.....


.....

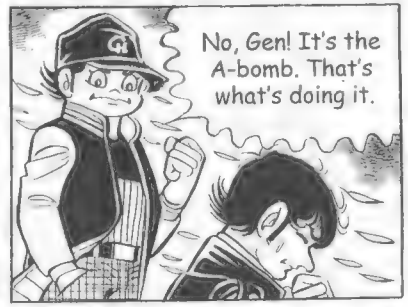

Come on, Gen. Cheer up! Sing with me!
.....

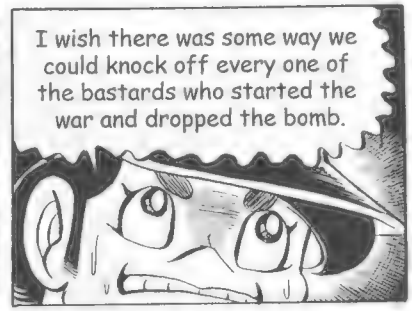

I know how sad you are. But there's nothing you can do but pick yourself up and move on.
.....

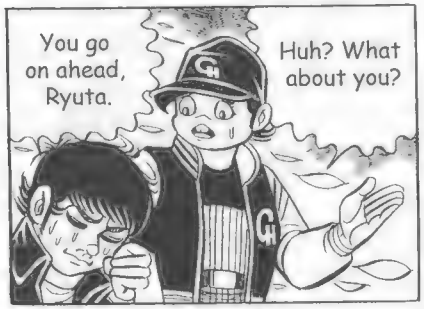



Sniff... A girl who wanted to be a doctor so she could save people's lives has her own life snatched away.
It's too ironic. It makes no sense.


Ryuta! Why is it that all the people I love keep dying?
Am I some kind of jinx? Am I an angel of death?


No, Gen! It's the A-bomb. That's what's doing it.

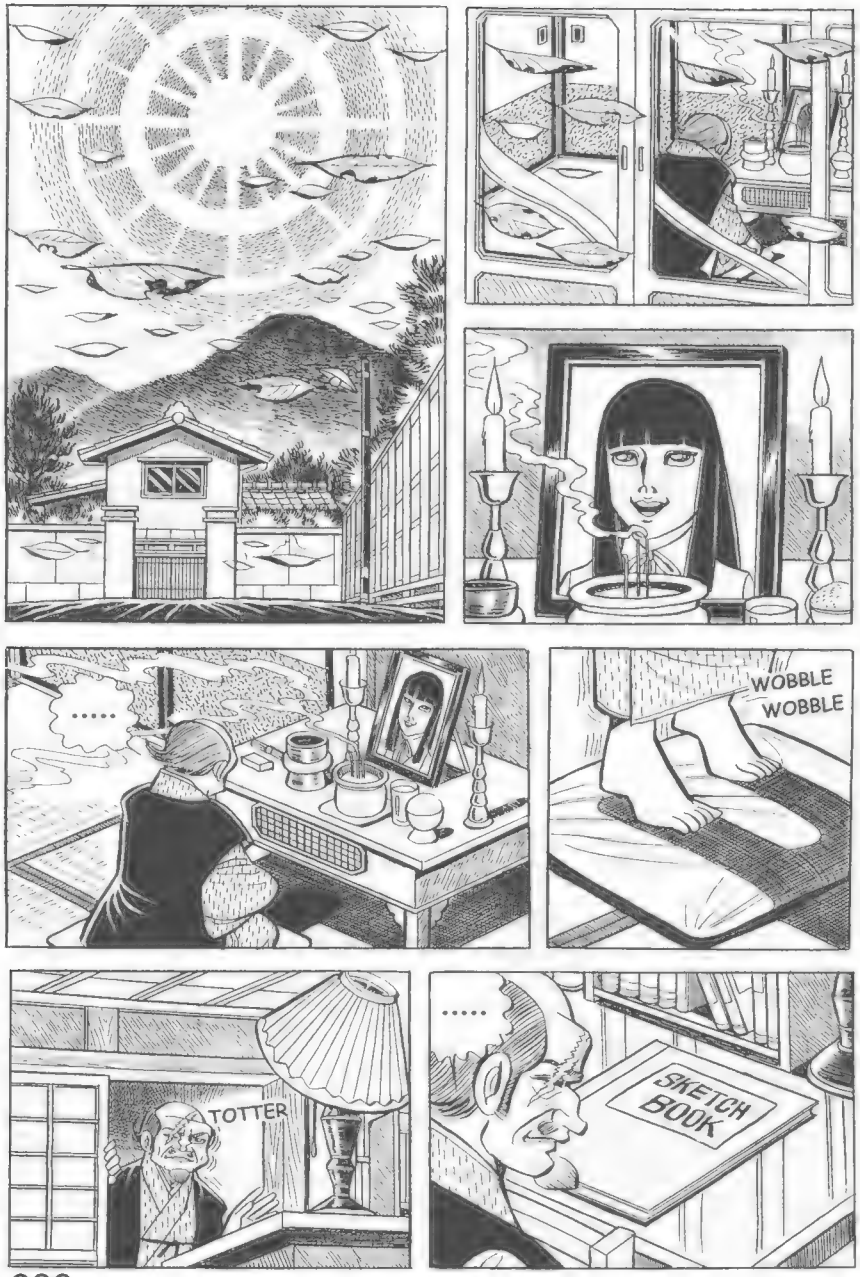

I wish there was some way we could knock off every one of the bastards who started the war and dropped the bomb.


You go on ahead, Ryuta.
Huh? What about you?


I'll be fine. Just go on home.
Are you sure that's a good idea? You really gonna be okay by yourself?

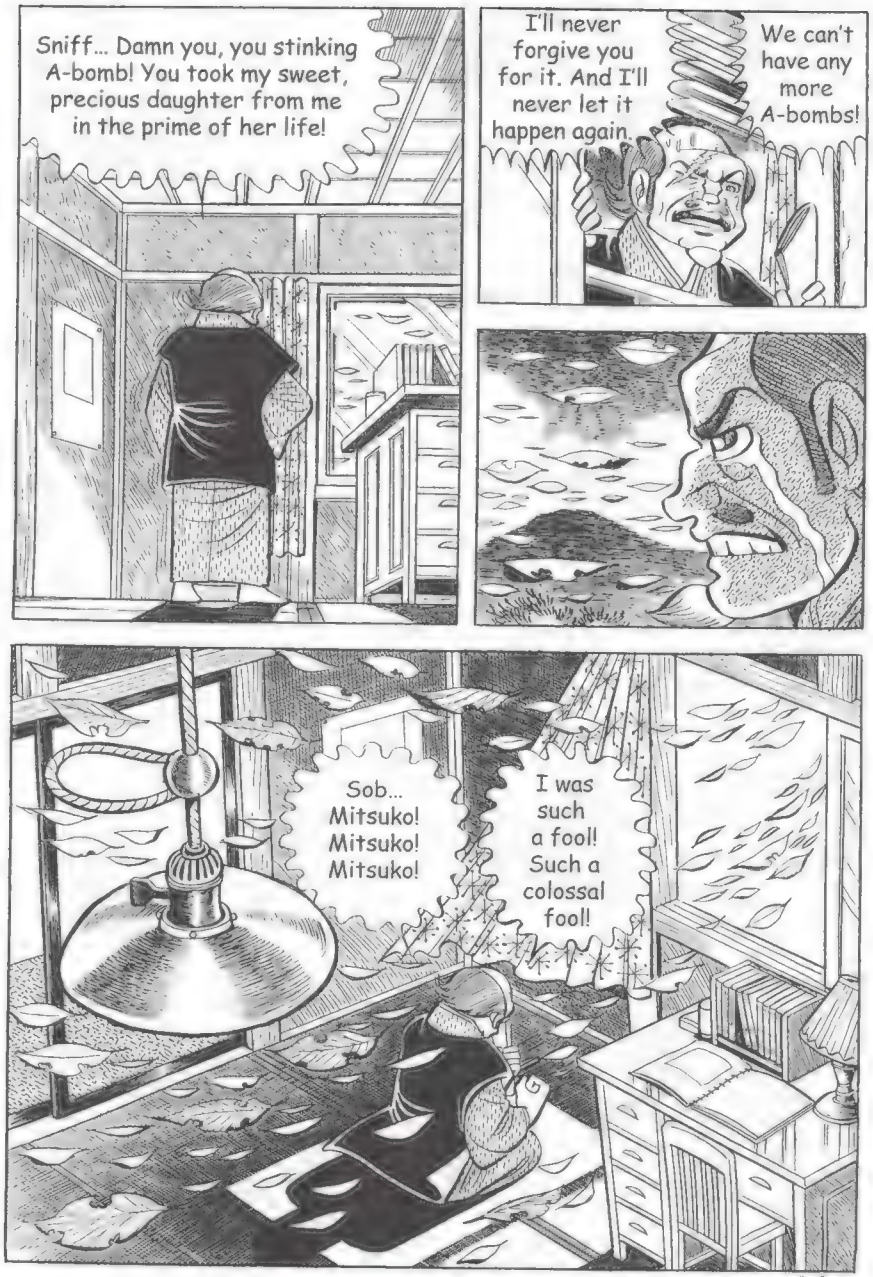

Didn't I tell you to go?! Scram! Get outta here!
Yikes!
Sheesh! You don't hafta blow your stack at me!
Fine, fine, I'm on my way.
Don't be too long. I'll be lookin' for you.
.....
♪ High over the mountain pasture A lone goose flies at twilight... ♪
WAAHHH
Urk!

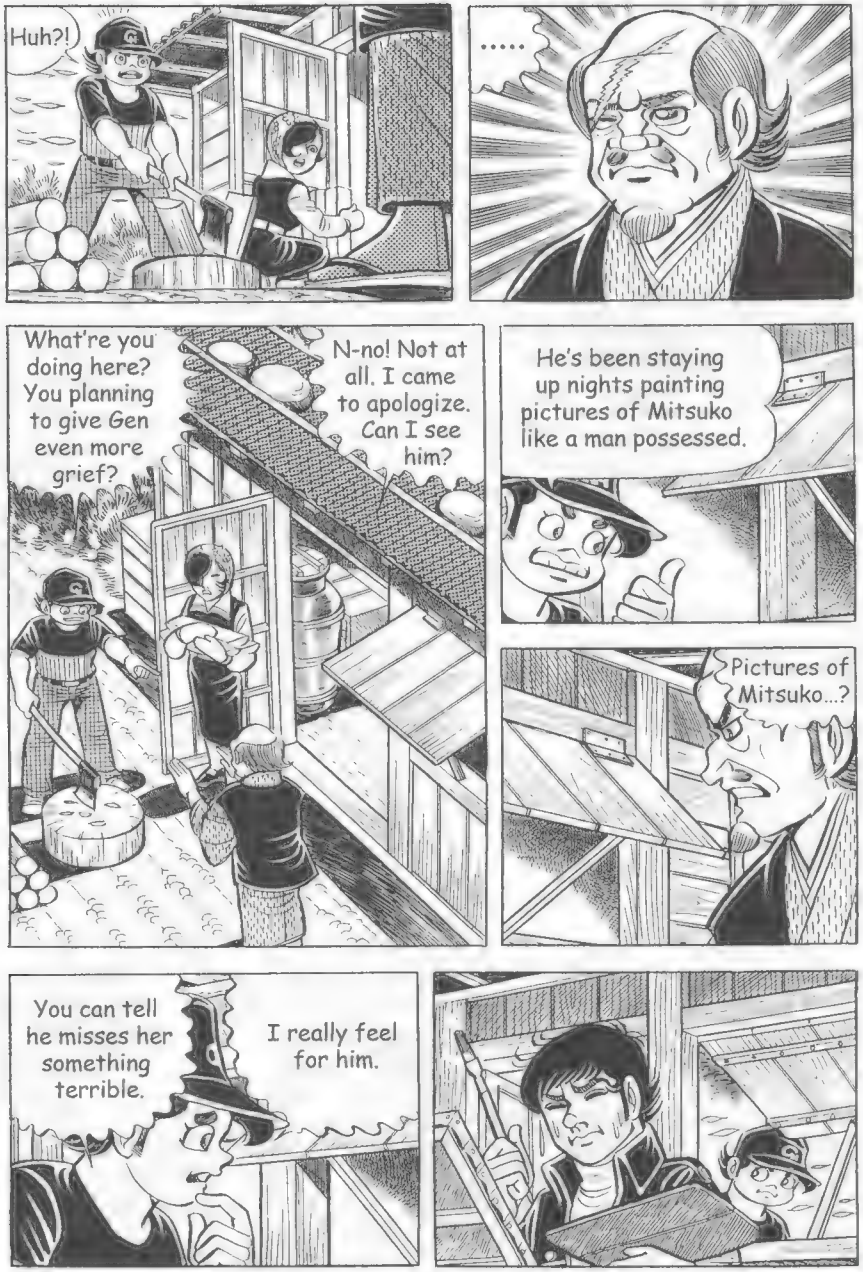

WAAAH WAAAH WAAAH WAAAH
Now I get it. He wanted me to leave 'cuz he was too embarrassed to cry in front of me.
Go ahead and cry, Gen. Cry as much as you need, and when you've cried yourself out, then cheer up again, okay?
Promise me!
WAAHH WAAHH WAAHH
Sob... Sniff...
Why did you have to die, Mitsuko? Why?! I miss you so much! I can't bear how much I miss you!
Waahh!! Why, Mitsuko, why?!
WAAHH WAAHH WAAHH


.....
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
TOTTER
.....
SKETCH BOOK

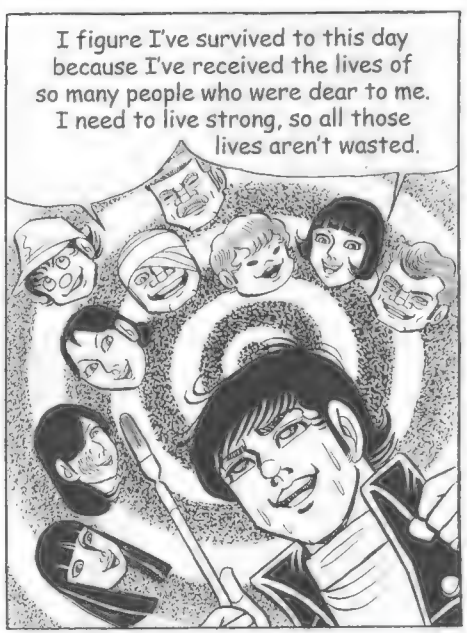

Envelope: To Father
.....
Dear Father, Lately I've been thinking that I must be dying. I suddenly feel nauseous, or I start to black out. It's getting worse every day. I know that it's the A-bomb disease.
Please don't grieve over my death. Instead, turn your grief into anger at those who started the war and dropped the A-bomb. They're the ones responsible for this disease.
And please stop singing the praises of war. I hate it when you do that. I can't bear watching you playing at war or speaking so fondly of it.

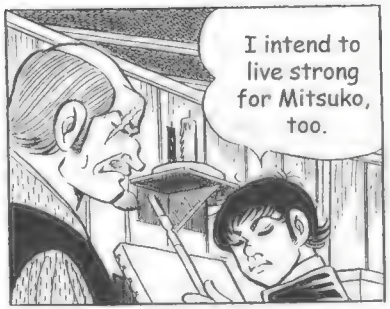

The days have been getting harder and harder, but ever since I met Gen Nakaoka, it's been a very happy time for me. I want you to know how thankful I am that I met him.
Please convey my gratitude to him after I'm gone. That's my last request.
Dearest Father, I've grown exhausted from trying to hide my pain behind a smile. Please let me go quietly to my rest. Good-bye.
Sniff... Sob... You were such a wonderful daughter, Mitsuko. So thoughtful. Hiding your pain just to keep me from worrying...
What a fool I was not to realize what you were going through! A monumental fool!
I feel so ashamed...


Sniff... Damn you, you stinking A-bomb! You took my sweet, precious daughter from me in the prime of her life!
I'll never forgive you for it. And I'll never let it happen again.
We can't have any more A-bombs!
Sob... Mitsuko! Mitsuko! Mitsuko!
I was such a fool! Such a colossal fool!


Huh?!
.....
What're you doing here? You planning to give Gen even more grief?
N-no! Not at all. I came to apologize. Can I see him?
He's been staying up nights painting pictures of Mitsuko like a man possessed.
Pictures of Mitsuko...?
You can tell he misses her something terrible.
I really feel for him.

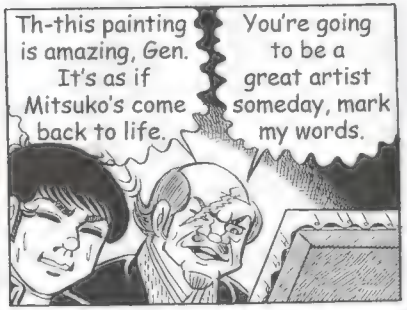

Gen, Mitsuko's dad is here to see you!
Urk!
GLARE
Gen, I've come to say I'm sorry. Mitsuko has opened my eyes. Please forgive me.
I found a letter she left behind. She asked me to tell you how grateful she was to you.
She thanks you for giving her such happy memories.
And I thank you, too.
I want to apologize for striking out at you in anger. I'm sorry. Please forgive me...
Apology accepted.

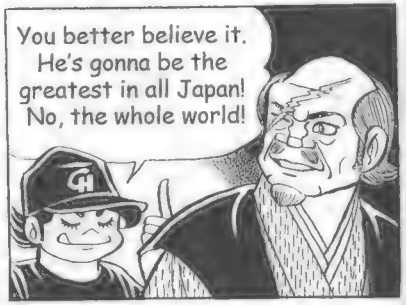

I figure I've survived to this day because I've received the lives of so many people who were dear to me. I need to live strong, so all those lives aren't wasted.

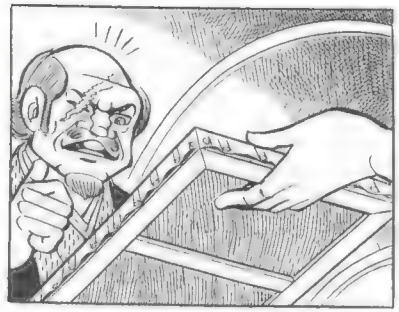

I intend to live strong for Mitsuko, too.


My god!




Th-this painting is amazing, Gen. It's as if Mitsuko's come back to life.
You're going to be a great artist someday, mark my words.


You better believe it. He's gonna be the greatest in all Japan! No, the whole world!



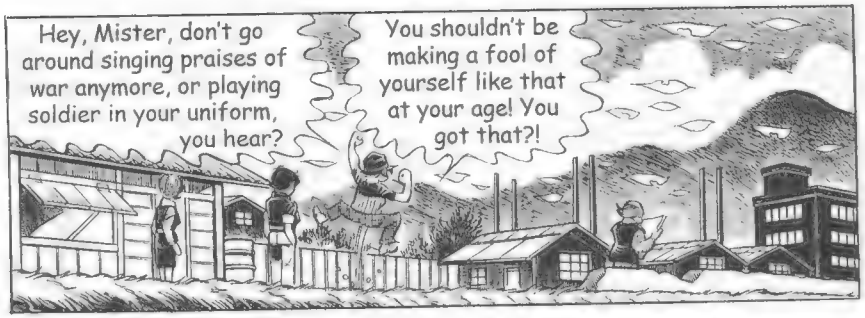

Y-you're giving it to me?!


She's burnt into my memory. I can paint another portrait of her any time I want. I'm going to paint lots and lots of them!
Th-thank you, Gen.


I will treasure this with all my heart.


It really is as if Mitsuko's come back to life.
You've made me very happy.


Thank you. Thank you.
.....





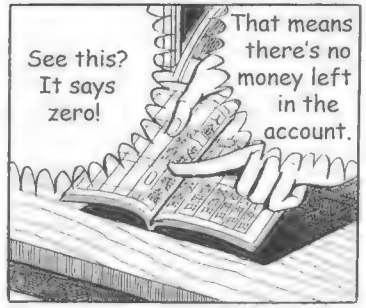






Honkawa Post Office









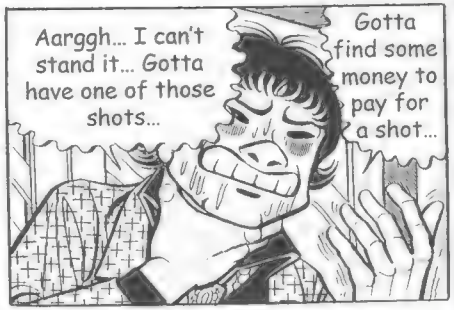










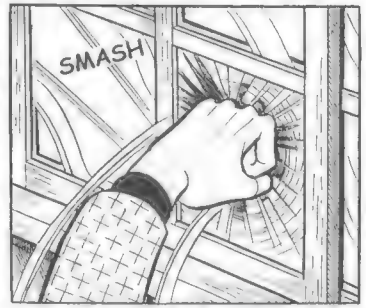






Midori Apartments














Dammit! Where is it? It's gotta be here somewhere!
BAM
CLATTER
Moan... I'll go outta my mind if I don't find it quick...
Groan...
Where'd they hide it?
Where'd they hide the stuff?!
Ha ha ha! That sure was a lot of fun.
You said it. Let's drink some more at the apartment and keep the good times rollin'!
みどり荘
Tra la la la la la...
Hm? Guess we've got company.
BAM
RATTLE
THUMP


CLATTER
Urk!!
What the hell do you think you're doing in here?
P-please! I gotta have some of that stuff!
Hmph. So you came in like a sneak thief to steal our stash?
I told you, you can have some anytime you've got the money.
So did you bring some cash?
It's all gone. I've poured all my savings into your drugs...
I-I swear I'll work and pay you back later. You gotta get me through this!
Please! I'm begging you!!
We ain't running a charity, asshole.


We've got no use for you if you don't have any money. Get the hell out!
WHAM!
Unh!
That's right! Teach him a good lesson!
No one gets away with sneaking in here to rob us.
D'ja hear that, asshole?
Ungk!
CRASH
POW!
This'll teach you!
Groan...
I'll fix you so you can never come sneaking in here again!
Yeah! Give it to him good!


KAPOW!
CRUNCH!
You gettin' the message yet, shithead?
WHOMP! WHACK!
THUMP!
GURGLE GURGLE
Oh, yuck! He's spitting blood and messing up my floor!
You son of a bitch!
BONK
Now clean that up and get outta here!

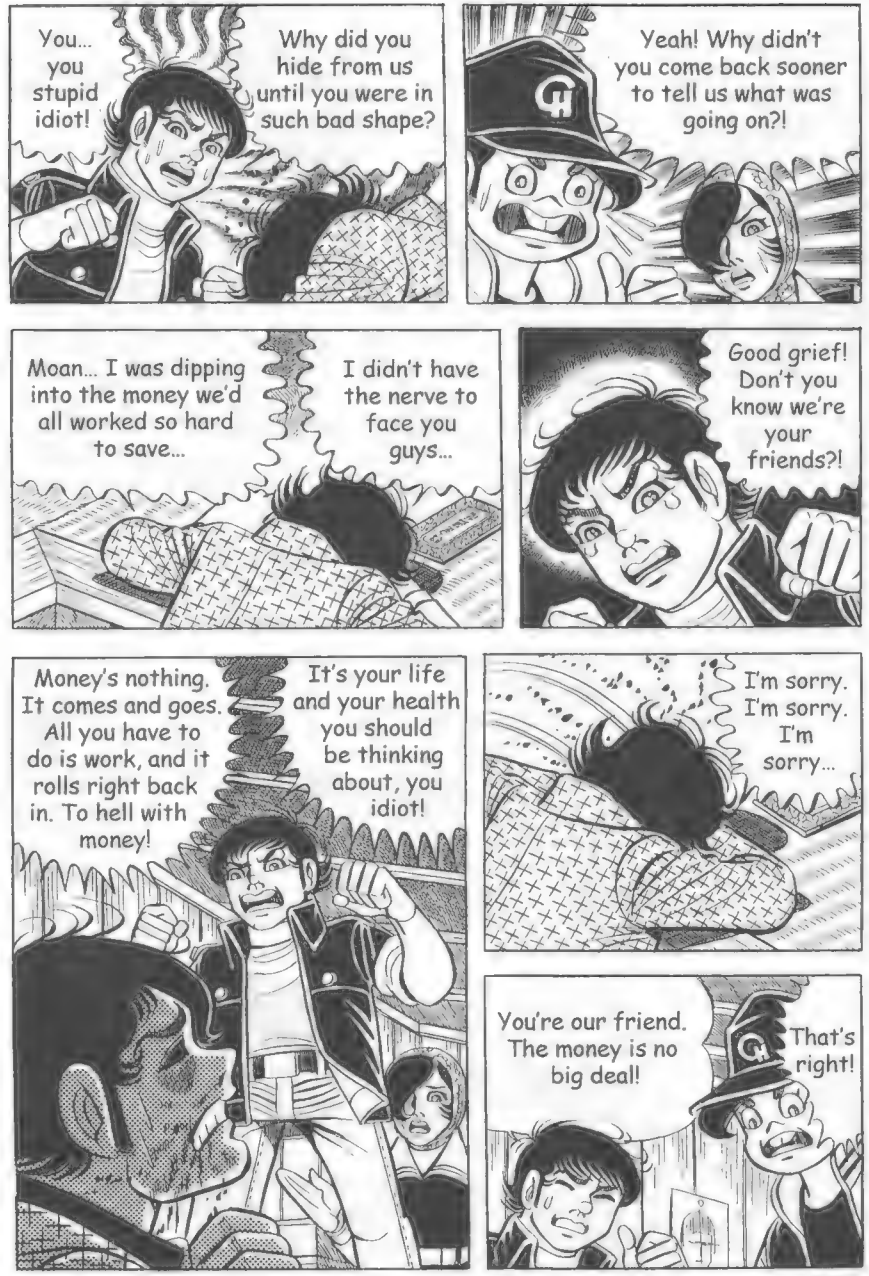

Let this be a lesson! Don't you even think about trying to sneak in here again. Got that?
Come on! Get up!
I don't like the looks of this. Wonder if I busted up something inside him.
What?!
At this rate, he could die on us.
Ugh! We don't want that. Not here.
I say we go dump him someplace, quick.
Right.
Some drug addict went bonkers and died. The police won't even bother to investigate.


Here's a good spot. No one's looking.
BOMP!
So long, Cutie Pie! Thanks for the nice income you brought us.
I guess we'll have to find a new sucker to milk.
Heh heh heh...
Thanks to him, my earnings have been so good, the boss gave me a pat on the back.
I hope they make you an executive.
GASP


Unnhh... I can't die like this...
Gotta apologize to everyone first... or I'll never be able to rest in peace...
GASP
GRUNT
WHEEZE
Pant pant... F-forgive me, Ryuta!
GROWWRR! BOW WOW WOW!
Moan... Forgive me, Katsuko!
ARF! ARF! ARF!
Huff puff... F-forgive me, Gen!
BOW WOW!
BOW WOW WOW!
BOW WOW! BOW WOW!
BOW WOW WOW WOW!


ARRROOOO!
BOW WOW WOW WOW!
Boy, the dogs are really making a racket tonight.
No kidding.
Pipe down, you dumb dogs! Barking's not gonna get you fed!
CLICK
Huh?
Ack!
Oh no!
Gasp... wheeze...
Huff puff...
M-Musubi!! What happened to you?!
Pant pant...


WOOF! WOOF!
BOW WOW WOW!
So the yakuza who runs the Madonna and his barmaid did this to you...
when they caught you breaking into their apartment to steal dope...?!
Gasp...
Gen! Ryuta! Katsuko! C-can you ever forgive me?
I-I used up all the precious money we were saving for our clothing store... Please, forgive me...
N-no words can express how sorry I am. No apology would be good enough...
I was a complete fool... I-I just hope you have it in your heart to forgive me...

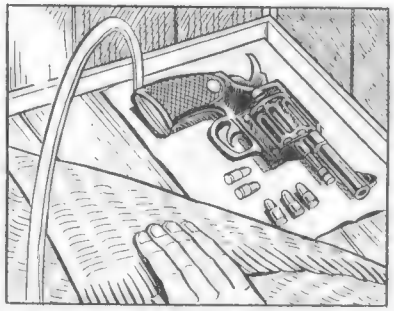

You... you stupid idiot!
Why did you hide from us until you were in such bad shape?
Yeah! Why didn't you come back sooner to tell us what was going on?!
Moan... I was dipping into the money we'd all worked so hard to save...
I didn't have the nerve to face you guys...
Good grief! Don't you know we're your friends?!
Money's nothing. It comes and goes. All you have to do is work, and it rolls right back in. To hell with money!
It's your life and your health you should be thinking about, you idiot!
I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry...
You're our friend. The money is no big deal!
That's right!


Gen's right, Musubi! So stop beating up on yourself!
We can start over. If we work hard, we'll have the money again in no time. You just need to be strong!
Y-you're all so good to me...
Pant pant... I'm so lucky to have had friends like you...
Thank you... all of you...
Gasp... wheeze... N-now I can finally die in peace...
What're you talking about, Musubi?!
No, Musubi! Don't give up now!
Pant pant... Th-thank...
Pant pant... you...
Pant pant... all...
Pant pant... so much...
Musubi!!

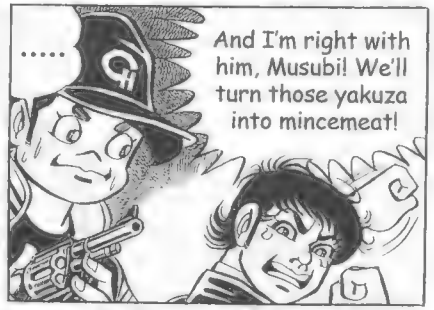

Musubi!
Musubi!
Musubi!
No, Musubi! You can't die now! Not now! Not now!
.....
Sob... Why?... Why do all our dearest friends have to come to such unhappy ends? It's not fair! It's not fair!
Sniffle... Musubi... Musubi...
Those bastards! They're gonna pay for what they did to him!


I'm gonna get those scumbags! They can't do this to someone who's like a brother to us!
I'll kill every one of 'em! I'll do it for Musubi!


I'm with you, Ryuta! Those dirty yakuza!
They're not getting away with this!



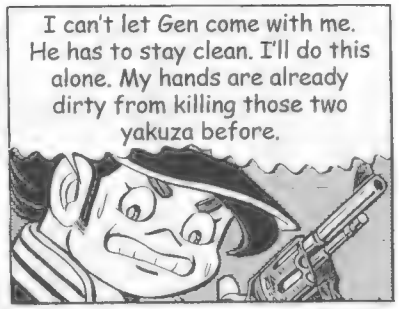

Just you watch, Musubi. I'm gonna settle this score for you.

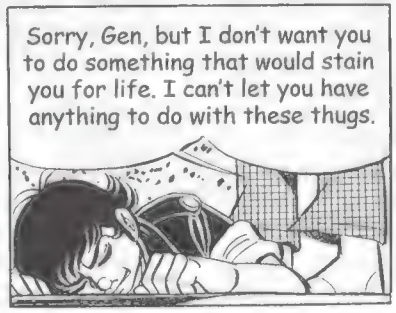

.....
And I'm right with him, Musubi! We'll turn those yakuza into mincemeat!


WHACK

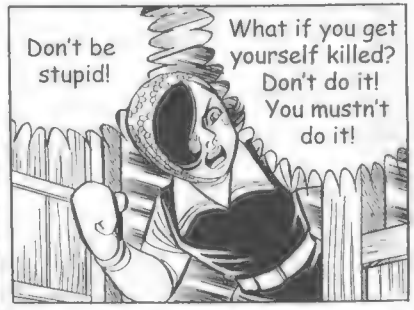

Unghh...

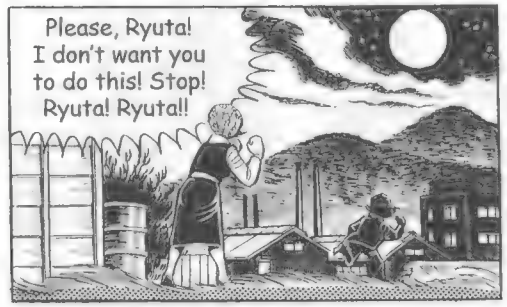

What're you doing, Ryuta?!
.....
THUD


I can't let Gen come with me. He has to stay clean. I'll do this alone. My hands are already dirty from killing those two yakuza before.


Sorry, Gen, but I don't want you to do something that would stain you for life. I can't let you have anything to do with these thugs.


Take care of him when he comes to, Katsuko.
Wait, Ryuta! Stop!


Don't be stupid!
What if you get yourself killed? Don't do it! You mustn't do it!

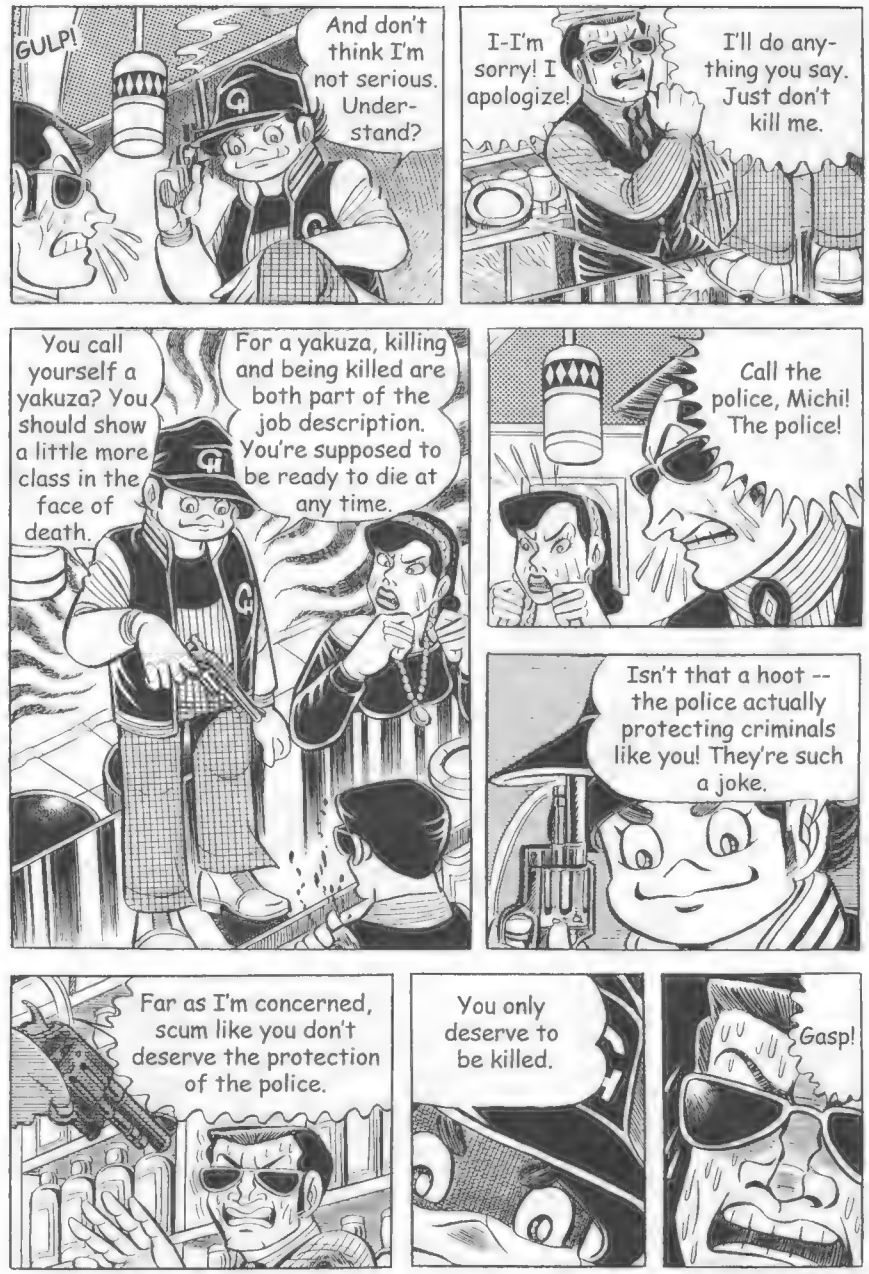

Please, Ryuta! I don't want you to do this! Stop! Ryuta! Ryuta!!

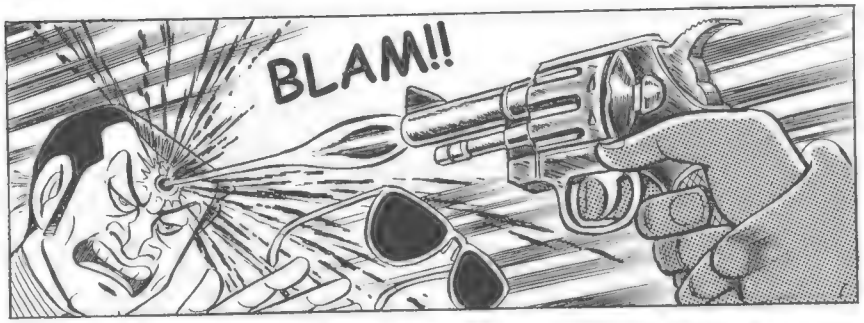

ARROOO
ARROOO


BAR マドンナ
ニッカバー
BAR マドンナ
BAR
ヒロチ
I can't believe it. Not a single customer all night.
Business sure is slow.
CLICK
Oh, hello there! Come right on in, sir!
.....
It's so nice to have you with us! I'm going to give you the best service you ever had.
.....

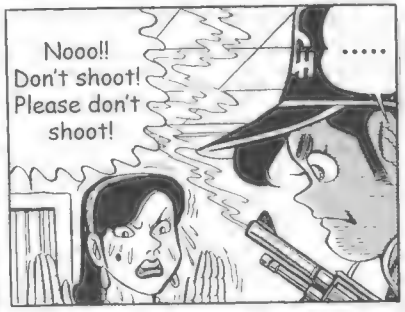

How about it? Let's really whoop it up tonight!
What can I give you?
Well, let's see...
How about your life?
My life? Hmph. Very funny.
Your sorry-ass life isn't really worth anything, but I'll take it anyway. Say your prayers.
Why, you little--!
Watch what you say, or I'll pound you to a pulp!
I'd like to see you try.
Huh?!


BANG
Ack!
Owww...
You bastards tormented my friend Musubi for weeks, and then you killed him. So now I'm gonna return the favor.
Urk!!
Gasp!
N-n-no! Stop! Stop!
D-don't do it!
BLAM
Freeze!
Eek!
Ai-yi-yi...
Listen up, shitcakes! Make one move, and I'll blow your brains out! Just keep quiet and don't try anything stupid.


GULP!
And don't think I'm not serious. Understand?
I-I'm sorry! I apologize!
I'll do anything you say. Just don't kill me.
You call yourself a yakuza? You should show a little more class in the face of death.
For a yakuza, killing and being killed are both part of the job description. You're supposed to be ready to die at any time.
Call the police, Michi! The police!
Isn't that a hoot -- the police actually protecting criminals like you! They're such a joke.
Far as I'm concerned, scum like you don't deserve the protection of the police.
You only deserve to be killed.
Gasp!


BLAM!!

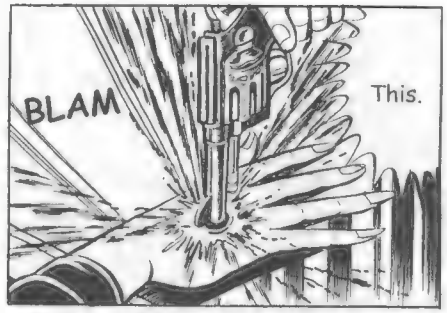



Nooo!!
Don't shoot!
Please don't shoot!
.....


P-please don't kill me! I'll do anything!
Please forgive me!

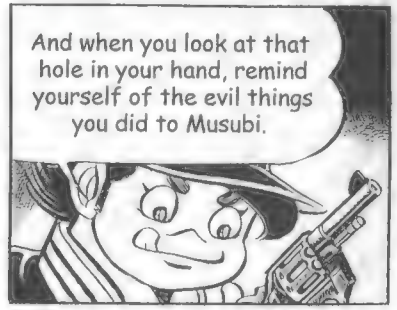

Gulp...
Put your hands on the counter.

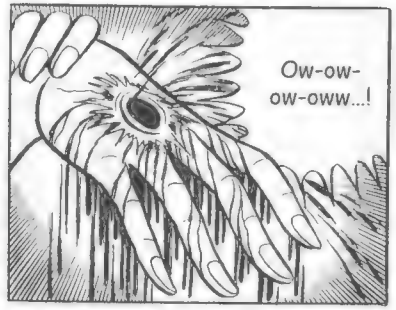

N-now what're you going to do...?


BLAM
This.

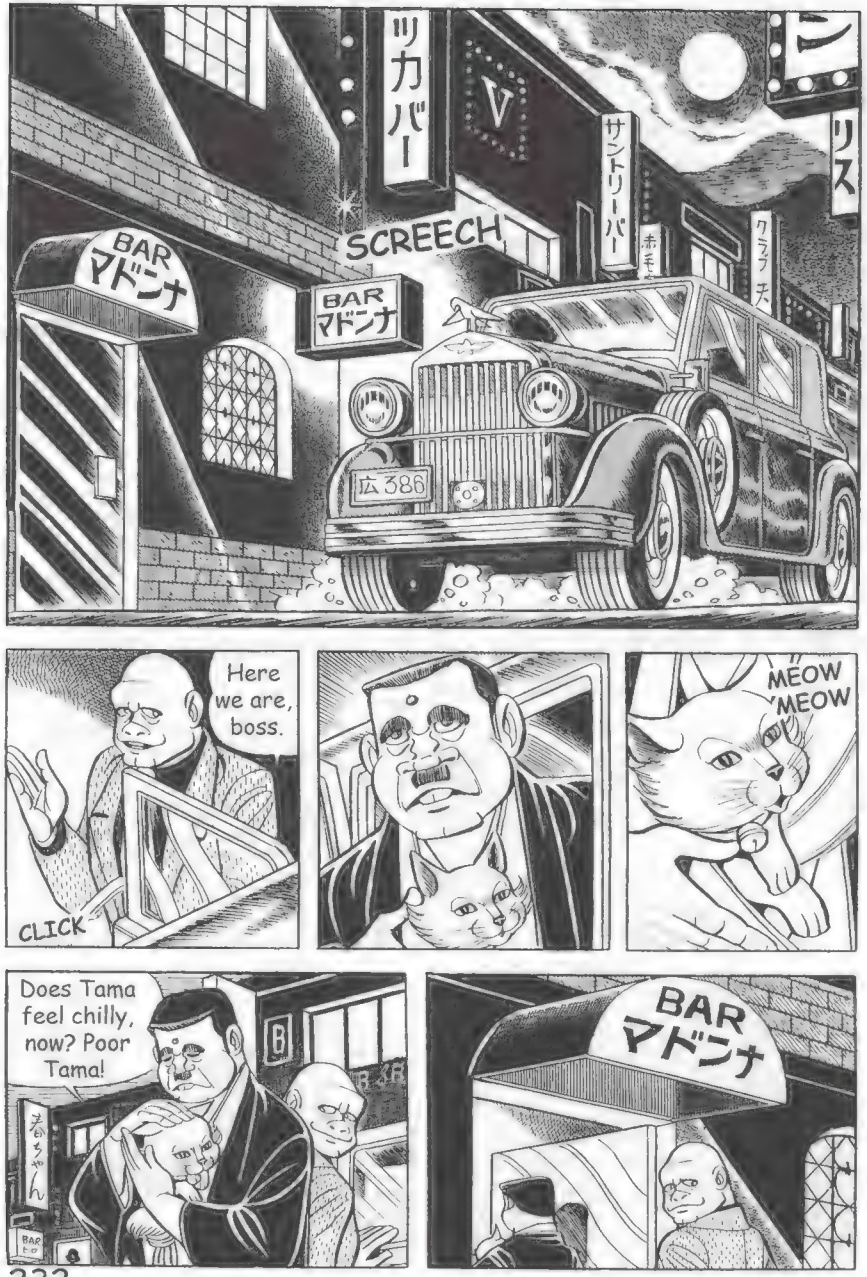

EEEKK!!


Ow-ow-ow-ow-oww!!
Ohh, it hurts, does it? Well, I suggest you take that pain and etch it into your memory.


And when you look at that hole in your hand, remind yourself of the evil things you did to Musubi.


Ow-ow-ow-oww...!


Pant pant pant...
But don't think that gets you off the hook yet.

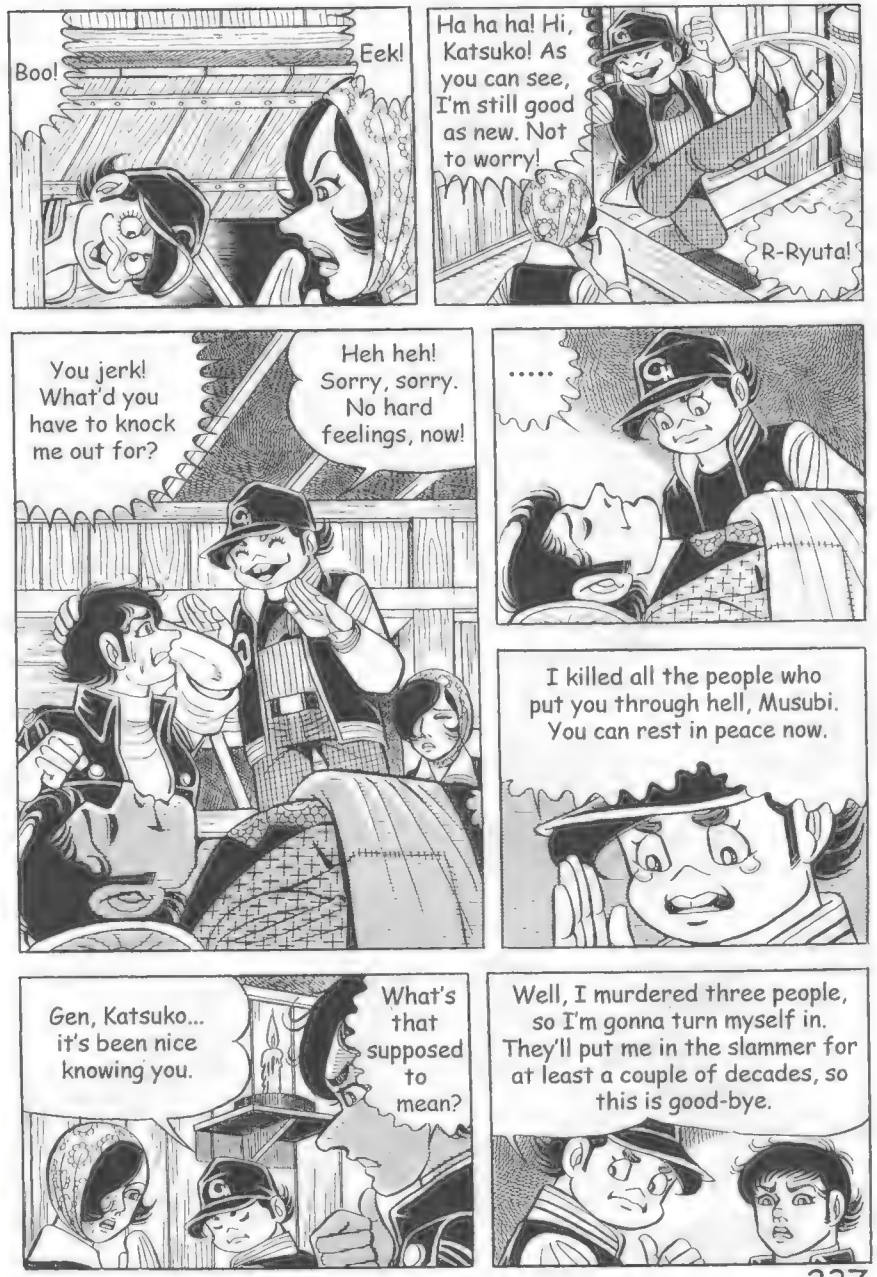

ツカバー
V
サントリーバー
ンリス
クラブ 夫
BAR マドンナ
SCREECH
BAR マドンナ
広 386
Here we are, boss.
CLICK
"MEOW MEOW
Does Tama feel chilly, now? Poor Tama!
BAR マドンナ


.....
You're shaking, Michi! What's the matter? Are you cold?
You said on the phone you had a guy here interested in a big drug deal and I should come right away. Where is he?
Thanks for coming. I'm the one you're looking for.
Who's this kid?
So you're the big boss who's been raking in the cash dealing drugs around town. You sure are an ugly one, aren't you.
I hear you've been making a nice pile of money, sucking the life out of people...
So I thought I'd make it so you can't do that anymore. This is your lucky day!
Watch your mouth, you shit-ass punk!


If you think you're talkin' to the boss of just any old gang, you got another think comin'!
Hmph. What do I care what gang he's boss of?
Ack!
You're nothing but human trash!
W-whoa! Stop! Nooo!
I don't need some two-bit goon yammering at me, so why don't I get rid of you first!
Ungk!
Save your breath!
KABLAM
That should make things a little quieter in Hiroshima.
Gulp!
I've got no sympathy at all for you swine.


You might find it interesting to take a peek behind the counter, Mr. Drug King.
H-huh?
Urk!!
Now it wouldn't be fair if only the underlings died while the boss lived on in comfort, would it? So just to set things right, I thought I'd offer you the same fair deal I offered him.
We live in a democracy, after all. Equality is what it's all about.
W-wait--!
You'll have plenty of time to reflect on your sins in the depths of hell.
This is for killing Musubi!
Aggh!
BANG
Die, you scum!!

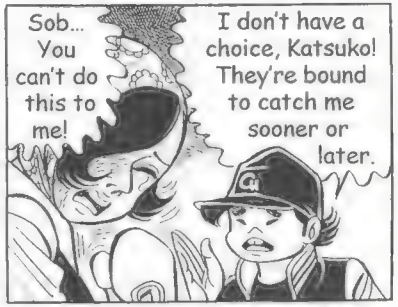

THUD
MEOWW!
PTUI
BAR マドンナ
Murder! Murder! Somebody, help!!
Somebody call the police, quick!
.....
WHOOEEEEE
Listen to all those police sirens. I hope something hasn't happened to Ryuta.

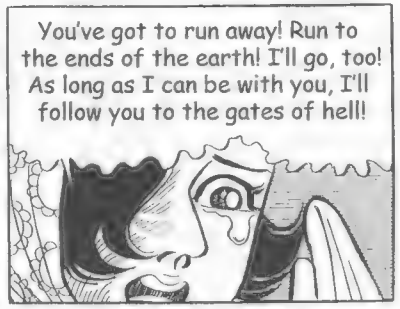

Boo!
Eek!
Ha ha ha! Hi, Katsuko! As you can see, I'm still good as new. Not to worry!
R-Ryuta!
You jerk! What'd you have to knock me out for?
Heh heh! Sorry, sorry. No hard feelings, now!
.....
I killed all the people who put you through hell, Musubi. You can rest in peace now.
Gen, Katsuko... it's been nice knowing you.
What's that supposed to mean?
Well, I murdered three people, so I'm gonna turn myself in. They'll put me in the slammer for at least a couple of decades, so this is good-bye.

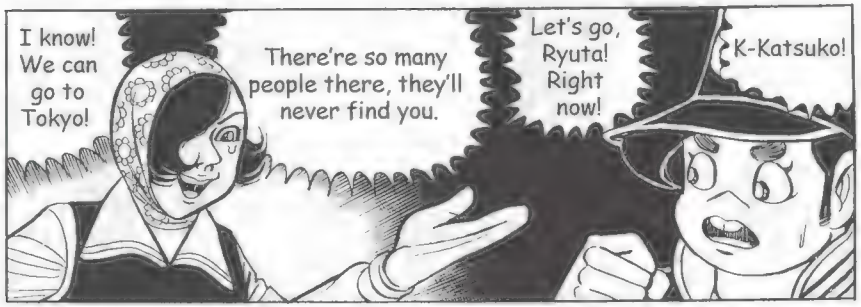

Thanks for everything, you guys. I'm gonna miss you. But it's best I turn myself in this time.
.....


No, Ryuta! No!
Don't go to the police!

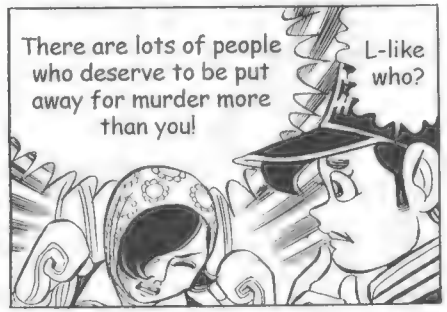

You can't let them put you in prison!
I couldn't stand being apart! I couldn't bear living without you!

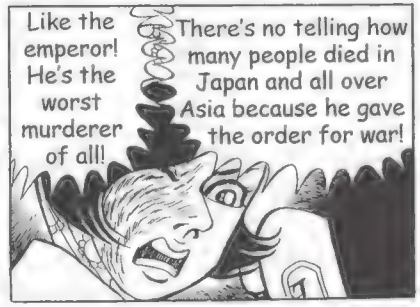

Sob... You can't do this to me!
I don't have a choice, Katsuko! They're bound to catch me sooner or later.

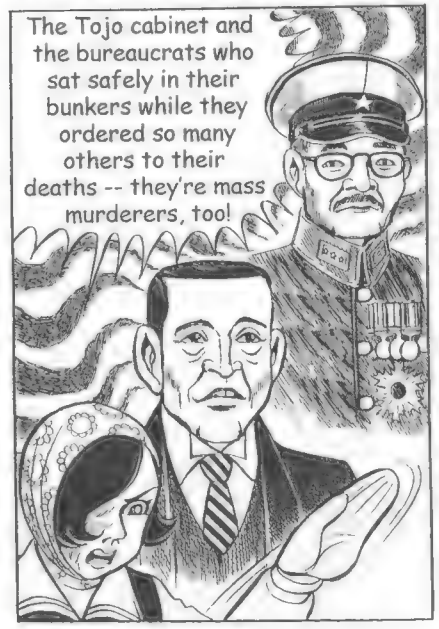

You've got to run away! Run to the ends of the earth! I'll go, too! As long as I can be with you, I'll follow you to the gates of hell!


I know! We can go to Tokyo!
There're so many people there, they'll never find you.
Let's go, Ryuta! Right now!
K-Katsuko!

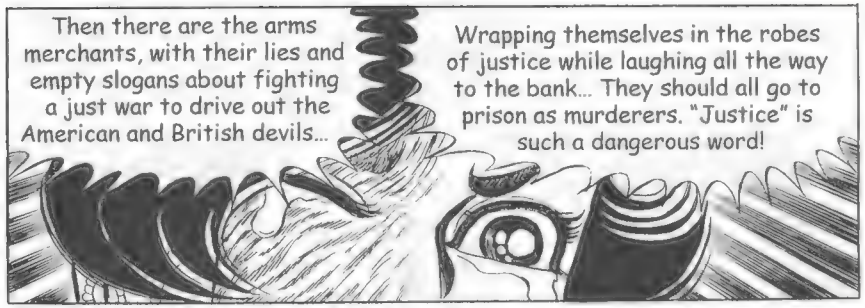

When you told me you'd marry me, Ryuta, you made me so happy.
I can't let them put you in prison. You're my true love.

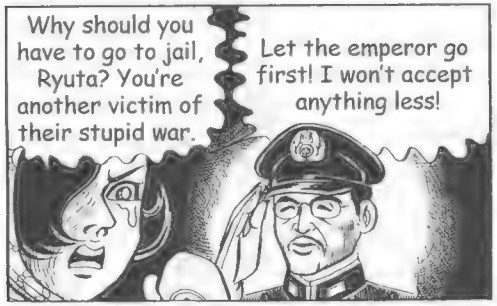

There are lots of people who deserve to be put away for murder more than you!
L-like who?

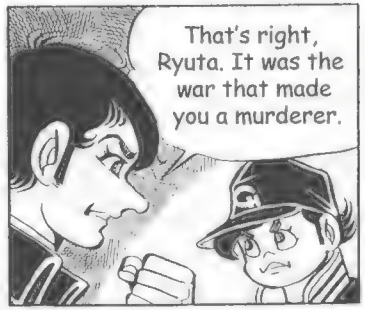

Like the emperor! He's the worst murderer of all!
There's no telling how many people died in Japan and all over Asia because he gave the order for war!

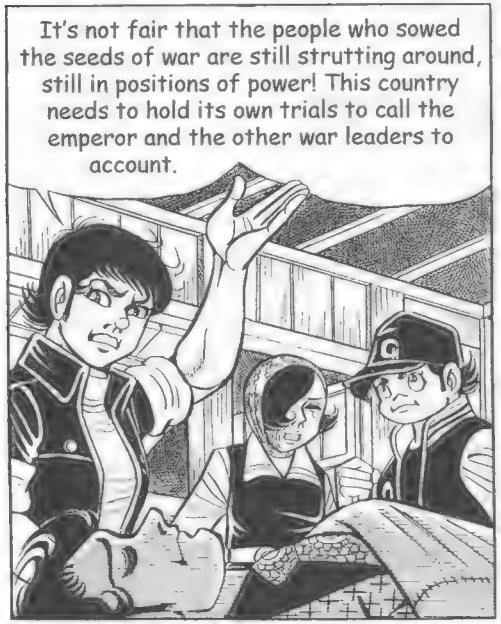

The Tojo cabinet and the bureaucrats who sat safely in their bunkers while they ordered so many others to their deaths -- they're mass murderers, too!


And the top brass of the Army and Navy who goaded us into war, boasting that Japan couldn't possibly lose -- they're just as guilty!


Then there are the arms merchants, with their lies and empty slogans about fighting a just war to drive out the American and British devils...
Wrapping themselves in the robes of justice while laughing all the way to the bank... They should all go to prison as murderers. "Justice" is such a dangerous word!


Why should you have to go to jail, Ryuta? You're another victim of their stupid war.
Let the emperor go first! I won't accept anything less!


That's right, Ryuta. It was the war that made you a murderer.


It's not fair that the people who sowed the seeds of war are still strutting around, still in positions of power! This country needs to hold its own trials to call the emperor and the other war leaders to account.

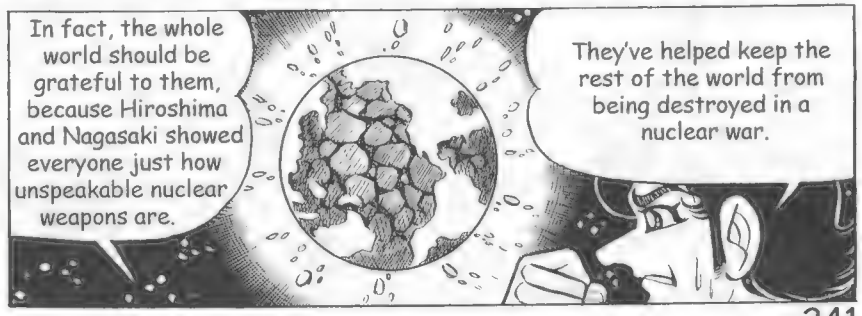

The people of this country are too soft. We're letting the worst criminals get off scot-free.


I agree. It makes me sick. They killed my whole family and turned me into an A-bomb orphan.


If they hadn't been shaken to their senses by the bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the emperor and his War Council would've just kept the war going -- even when they knew it was hopeless.
They'd have insisted that Japan fight to the very last person, and the entire country would've been destroyed.

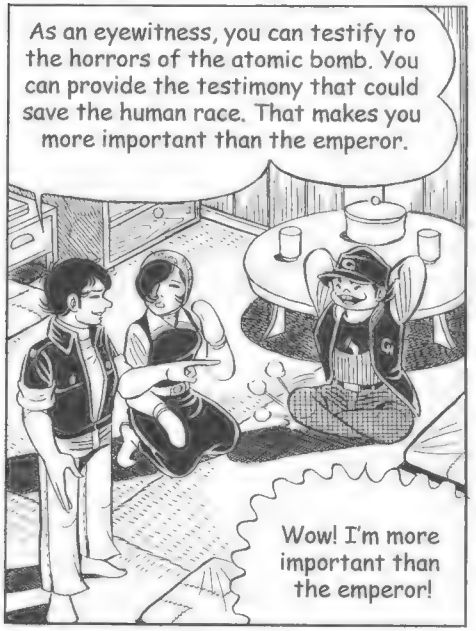

It was the power and devastation of the atomic bomb that got them quaking in their boots --
terrified that an A-bomb could kill them, too... Then, and only then, they were willing to accept unconditional surrender.

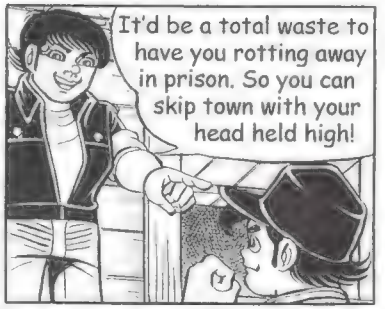

What made the war end was the 300,000 dead and the 370,000 wretched survivors of those two bombs.
The whole country should be grateful to the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Their sacrifice made it possible for everyone else to survive and sleep peacefully at night.

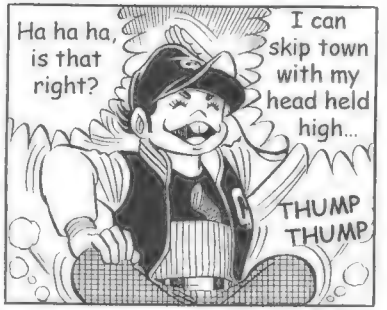

In fact, the whole world should be grateful to them, because Hiroshima and Nagasaki showed everyone just how unspeakable nuclear weapons are.
They've helped keep the rest of the world from being destroyed in a nuclear war.

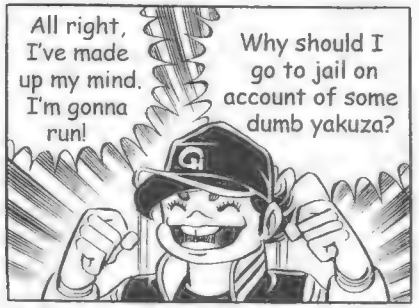

But those crazy Yanks might still try to use the A-bomb again.

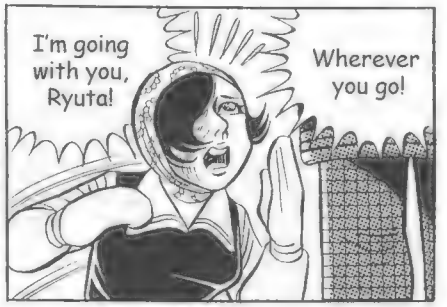

And to keep them from doing that, the world needs you, Ryuta!
Wh-what do you mean?


As an eyewitness, you can testify to the horrors of the atomic bomb. You can provide the testimony that could save the human race. That makes you more important than the emperor.
Wow! I'm more important than the emperor!


It'd be a total waste to have you rotting away in prison. So you can skip town with your head held high!


Ha ha ha, is that right?
I can skip town with my head held high...
THUMP THUMP

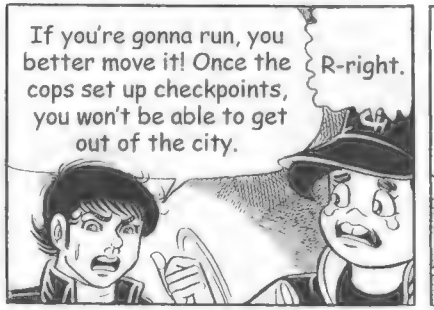

All right, I've made up my mind. I'm gonna run!
Why should I go to jail on account of some dumb yakuza?


I'm going with you, Ryuta!
Wherever you go!


If you come, Katsuko, you'll wind up regretting it later.
No, I won't! How could I regret it when I love you? I'd go with you to hell and back!

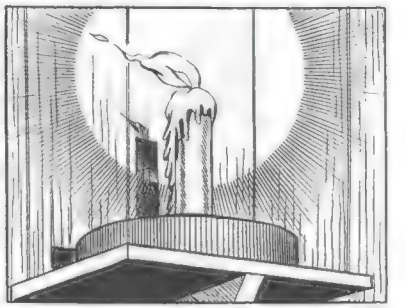

K-Katsuko!
All right, Ryuta? All right?


Th-thanks, Katsuko. I'm glad you feel that way.


If you're gonna run, you better move it! Once the cops set up checkpoints, you won't be able to get out of the city.
R-right.


Musubi's savings may be gone, but I've been squirreling away some cash, so we'll be fine for a while.
You're something, Katsuko!


All right, let's get moving. From now on we're gonna always be together. Forever and ever.
Y-yes.





On jeep and lantern: Hiroshima Prefectural Police



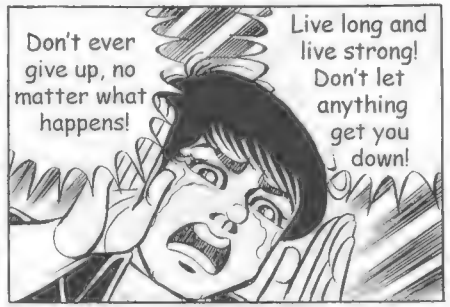














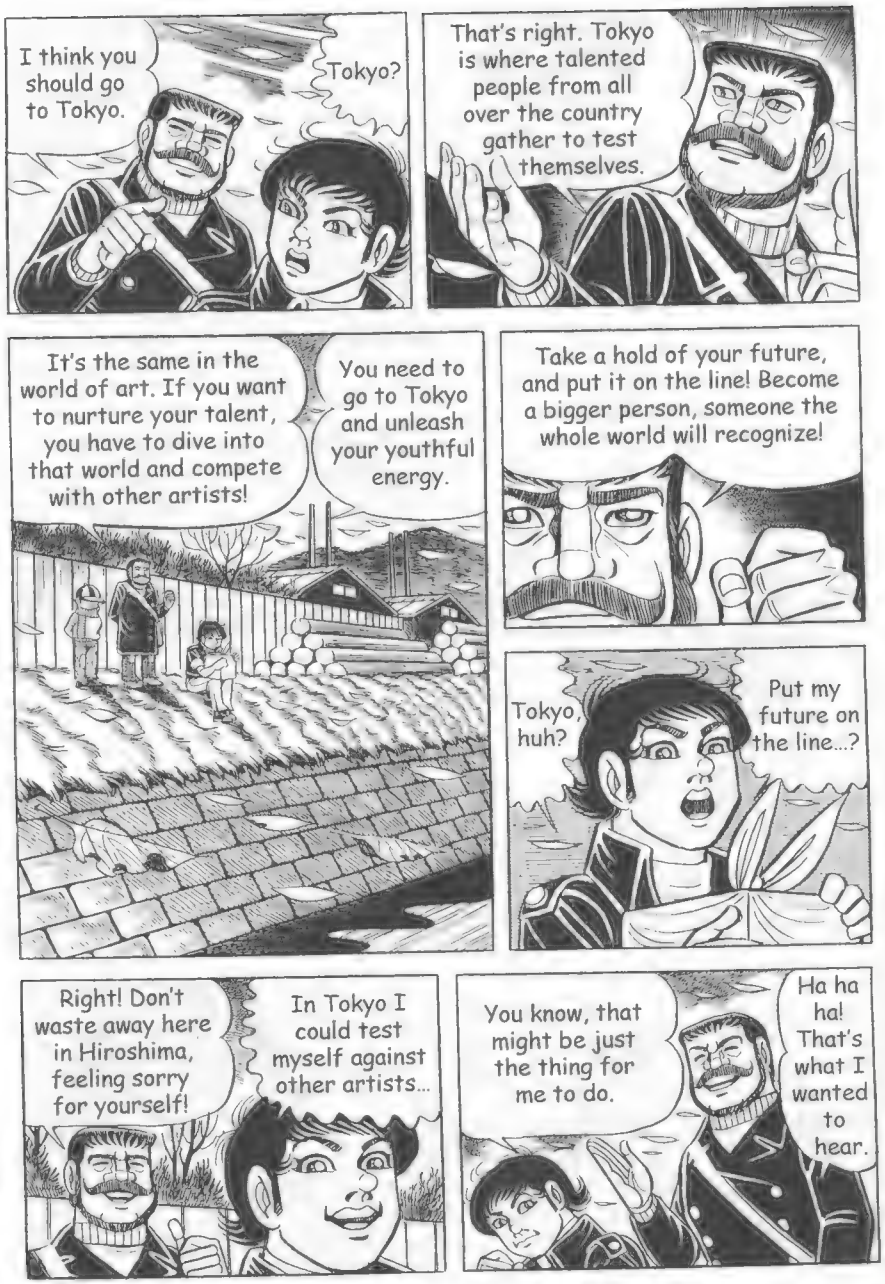




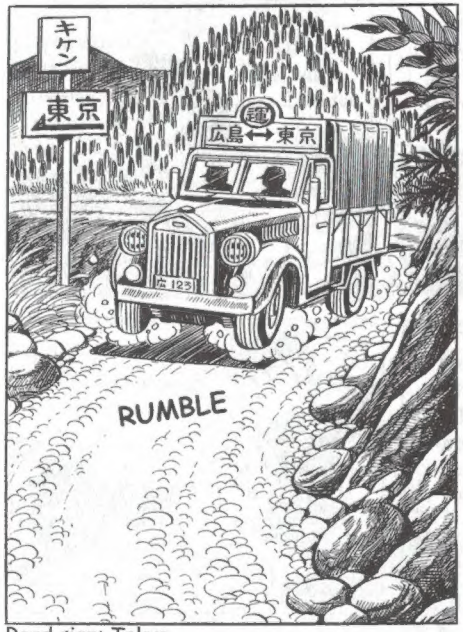


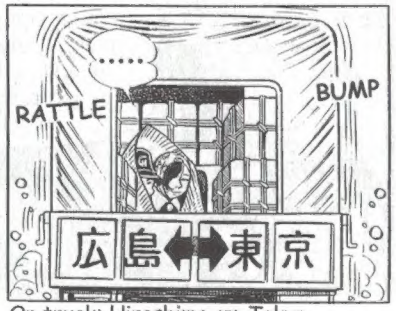

.....
I don't want you to feel lonely, Musubi,
so I'm gonna put you in my family grave.
HEY GEN!
Gen! I haven't seen you in a while. Have you been working on your painting?
Yeah, well...
What's that?
Another of my friends left me behind.
My friends keep leaving me, one after the other.
I feel so lonesome.
.....


I don't feel like doing anything anymore.
I'm just sick and tired of everything. I don't know what to do.
.....
Pull yourself together, Gen. A young guy like you shouldn't be feeling so down -- not when he's holding a treasure you couldn't buy at any price!
A treasure?
That's right. A precious and wonderful treasure called youth!
When you're young, you can rise to any challenge. When you're young, you have the power to make any dream come true.
Youth is a priceless thing, and you need to make the best use of it.
You need to be challenging yourself!
.....


I think you should go to Tokyo.
Tokyo?
That's right. Tokyo is where talented people from all over the country gather to test themselves.
It's the same in the world of art. If you want to nurture your talent, you have to dive into that world and compete with other artists!
You need to go to Tokyo and unleash your youthful energy.
Take a hold of your future, and put it on the line! Become a bigger person, someone the whole world will recognize!
Tokyo, huh?
Put my future on the line...?
Right! Don't waste away here in Hiroshima, feeling sorry for yourself!
In Tokyo I could test myself against other artists...
You know, that might be just the thing for me to do.
Ha ha ha! That's what I wanted to hear.


Do it, Gen! Go to Tokyo and make the most of your youth!
You're right! I'm young. I shouldn't be sitting here feeling sorry for myself!
I'll go to Tokyo and show 'em what I can do.
I'll take on any challenge they throw my way!
That's the spirit, Gen! Give Tokyo everything you've got. That's how you learn. That's how you grow.
Awright! That's what I'm gonna do!
Damn! I should've gone when Ryuta went...
Hey, Ryuta! Katsuko! I'm coming to Tokyo, too. I'll see you soon!
I wonder if they made it there without Ryuta getting caught?
I sure hope the cops didn't nab him along the way.





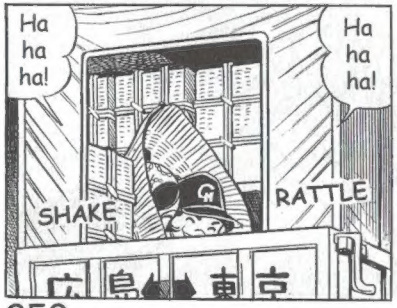
On truck: Hiroshima <=> Tokyo



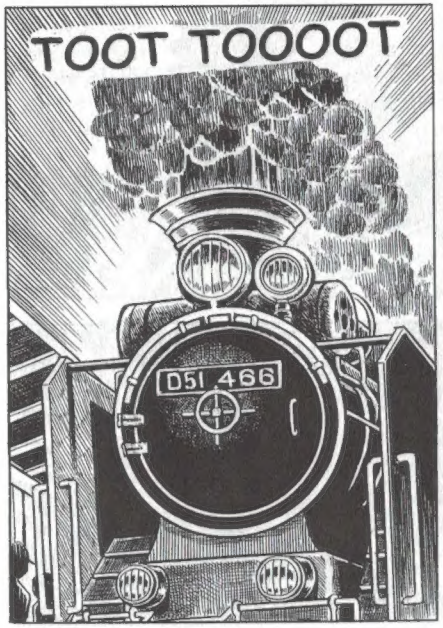
Road sign: Tokyo















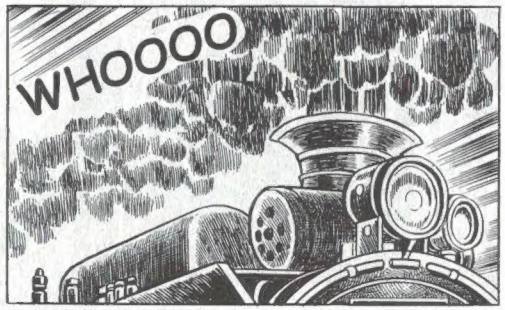




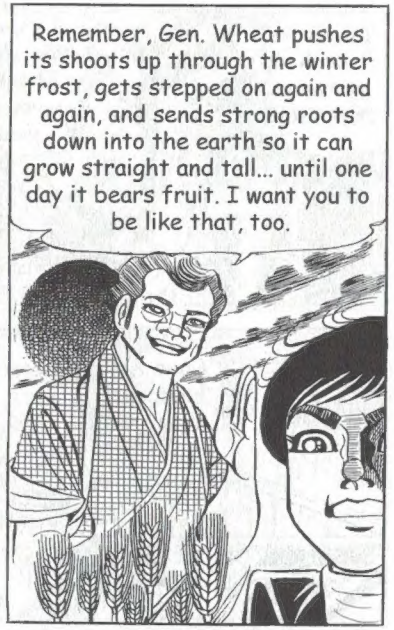



Good-bye, streets of Hiroshima! Good-bye, mountains of Hiroshima!
Good-bye, rivers of Hiroshima! Good-bye, people of Hiroshima!
Good-bye to the sky and earth that nurtured me to this day...
KLICKETY-KLACK
KLICKETY-KLACK


I'm gonna take on every challenge the future brings.
I'm gonna give it everything I've got. And I'm never gonna give up!


WHOOOO

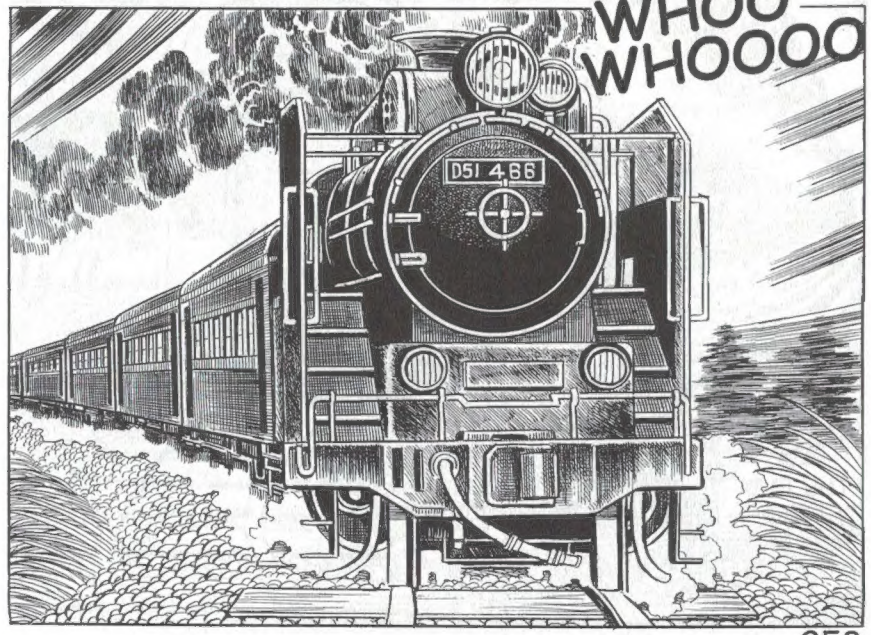

They're tramping on the wheat!
KLICKETY-KLACK
KLICKETY-KLACK

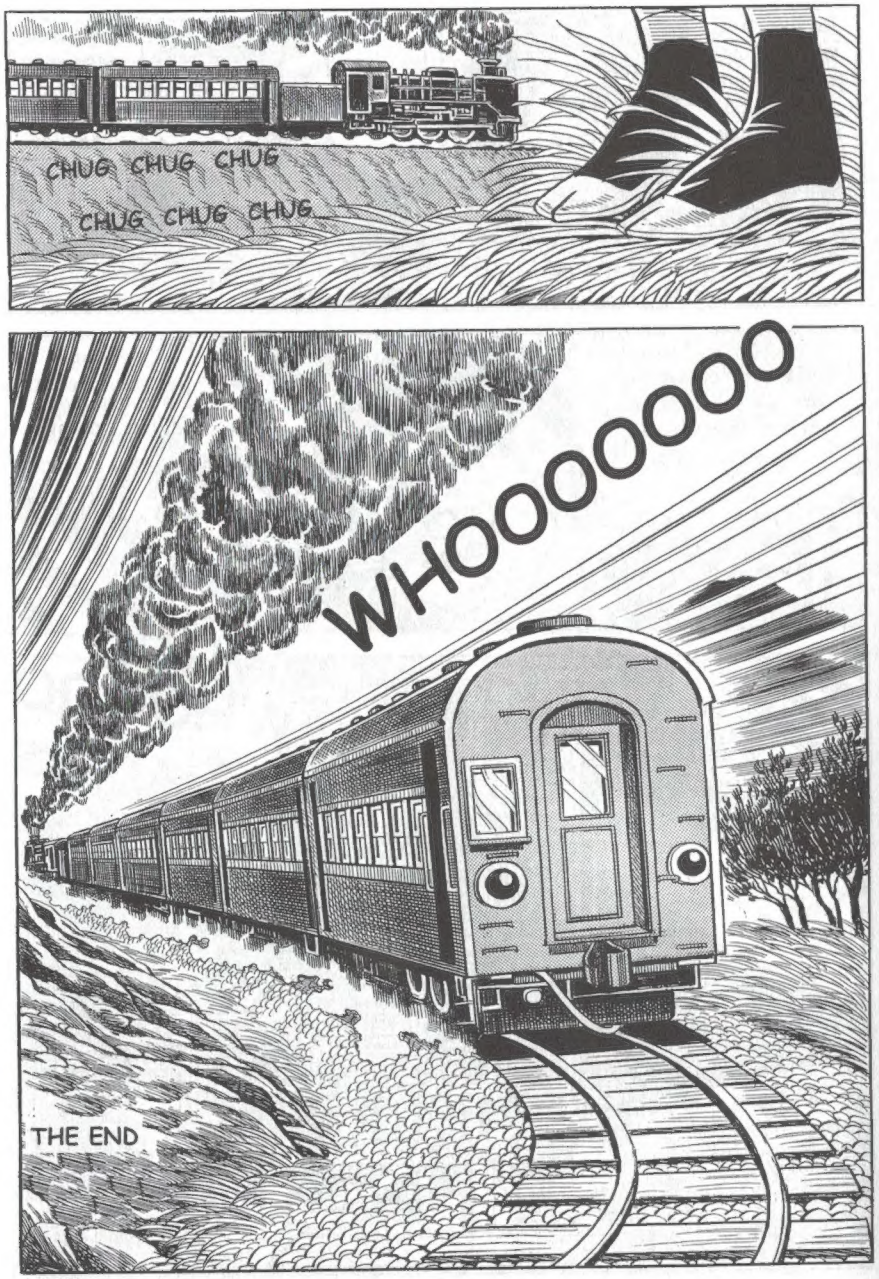

Remember, Gen. Wheat pushes its shoots up through the winter frost, gets stepped on again and again, and sends strong roots down into the earth so it can grow straight and tall... until one day it bears fruit. I want you to be like that, too.


Be like the wheat that grows strong and tall no matter how much it gets stepped on!


I will, Papa!
I'm gonna grow into the tallest, strongest stalk of wheat you ever saw!


Whatever comes my way, I'll never let it get me down and I'll never give up!
I'm gonna live, and live, and live!


WHOO WHOOOO
D51 466



About Project Gen

Namie Asazuma
Coordinator, Project Gen

In the pages of *Barefoot Gen*, Keiji Nakazawa brings to life a tragedy unlike any that has ever befallen the human race before. He does not simply depict the destructive horror of nuclear weapons, but tells of the cruel fate they visited upon victims and survivors in the years to come. Yet Gen, the young hero of this story, somehow manages to overcome one hardship after another, always with courage and humor. *Barefoot Gen's* tale of hope and human triumph in the face of nuclear holocaust has inspired volunteer translators around the world, as well as people working in a variety of other media. Over the years *Gen* has been made into a three-part live-action film, a feature-length animation film, an opera, and a musical.

The first effort to translate *Barefoot Gen* from the original Japanese into other languages began in 1976, when Japanese peace activists Masahiro Oshima and Yukio Aki walked across the United States as part of that year's Transcontinental Walk for Peace and Social Justice. Their fellow walkers frequently asked them about the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, and one of them happened to have a copy of *Hadashi no Gen* in his backpack. The Americans on the walk, astonished that an atomic bomb survivor had written about it in cartoon form, urged their Japanese friends to translate it into English. Upon returning to Japan, Oshima and Aki founded Project Gen, a non-profit, all-volunteer group of young Japanese and Americans living in Tokyo, to do just that. Project Gen went on to translate the first four volumes of *Barefoot Gen* into English. One or more of these volumes have also been published in French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Swedish, Norwegian, Indonesian, Tagalog, and Esperanto.

By the 1990s Project Gen was no longer active. In the meantime, author Keiji Nakazawa had gone on to complete ten volumes of *Gen*, and expressed his wish to see the entire story made available to non-Japanese readers. Parts of the first four volumes had also been abridged in translation. A new generation of volunteers responded by reviving Project Gen and producing a new, complete and unabridged translation of the entire Gen series.

The second incarnation of Project Gen got its start in Moscow in 1994, when a Japanese student, Minako Tanabe, launched "Project Gen in Russia" to translate *Gen* into Russian. After pub-

lishing the first three volumes in Moscow, the project relocated to Kanazawa, Japan, where volunteers Yulia Tachino and Namie Asazuma had become acquainted with *Gen* while translating a story about Hiroshima into Russian. The Kanazawa volunteers, together with Takako Kanekura in Russia, completed Russian volumes 4 through 10 between 1999 and 2001.

In the spring of 2000, the Kanazawa group formally established a new Project Gen in Japan. Nine volunteers spent the next three years translating all ten volumes of *Gen* into English. The translators are Kazuko Futakuchi, Michael Gordon, Kyoko Honda, Yukari Kimura, Nobutoshi Kohara, Kiyoko Nishita, George Stenson, Michiko Tanaka, and Kazuko Yamada.

In 2002, author Keiji Nakazawa put the Kanazawa team in contact with Alan Gleason, a member of the first Project Gen, who introduced them to Last Gasp of San Francisco, publisher of the original English translation of *Gen*. Last Gasp agreed to publish the new, unabridged translation of all ten volumes, of which this book is one.

In the hope that humanity will never repeat the terrible tragedy of the atomic bombing, the volunteers of Project Gen want children and adults all over the world to hear Gen's story. Through translations like this one, we want to help Gen speak to people in different countries in their own languages. Our prayer is that *Barefoot Gen* will contribute in some small way to the abolition of nuclear weapons before this new century is over.

Write to Project Gen c/o Asazuma, Nagasaka 3-10-20, Kanazawa 921-8112, Japan



Keiji Nakazawa lives with his wife in the suburbs of Tokyo, and remains actively involved in the work of the Project Gen volunteers. Now retired from cartooning, his most recent project was a live action film he wrote and directed about young people growing up in postwar Hiroshima. He is currently working on another film scenario.